

Hafa Adai!

'Include contempt charge against former governor' **PAGE 2**
US Coast Guard donates to Saipan Humane Society. **PAGE 7**

\$1

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TSLF SCHOLARSHIPS

Northern Marianas College president Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero, NMC staff, Tan Siu Lin Foundation president Jerry Tan and foundation employees, and Tan Holdings executives pose with the 10 recipients of the Tan Siu Lin Foundation Scholarships yesterday afternoon following a presentation ceremony at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan in Garapan. **Story on Page 3**

CHRYSTAL MARINO

Shortfall looms for NMI Medicaid

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The CNMI Medicaid agency is expected to experience a financial shortfall estimated at \$4.8 million and it is just a matter of when this will occur, according to acting Commonwealth Medicaid Agency director Vicenta Borja.

See **SHORTFALL** on Page 4

LB has until May 18 to pay CUC

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has given the Legislative Bureau only until May 18, 2023, to pay its accumulated outstanding balance in the amount of \$38,487 over several delinquent utility accounts as of March 31, 2023.

See **LB** on Page 4



Tenorio

Mallari tops 37th Annual AG's Cup

'TOUCHBACK' COUNTDOWN
Days until
'touchback rule'
takes effect on
Sept. 30, 2023:
143

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
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REPORTER

Jill Anne Mallari, who has been raking in awards in various forensics contests since her elementary days, has a new feather on her cap—a shiny trophy she won after topping the 37th Annual Attorney General's Cup speech

See **MALLARI** on Page 4



Dr. Galvin Deleon, left, Jill Anne Mallari, center, and Zeno Deleon Guerrero pose for a photo at the CNMI Superior Court following Mallari's victory during the 37th Annual Attorney General's Cup Speech Competition last Friday.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



John and
Darleen Taylor.
CHRYSTAL MARINO

Woman returns to her birthplace after 75 years

By **CHRYSTAL MARINO**
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

For Darleen Huckaby Taylor, coming to Saipan has always

been on her bucket list—one that has taken her 75 years to fulfill as she finally makes her first visit to her birthplace in
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INSIDE



BUSINESS

Get your swimsuits ready for the first Aqua Zumba led by M2 Fitness at the Aqua Resort Club.

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NATION

The people killed by a gunman at a mall near Dallas represent a multicultural cross-section of the area.

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LIFE & STYLE

The Associated Press has won two Pulitzer Prizes for its coverage of the war in Ukraine.

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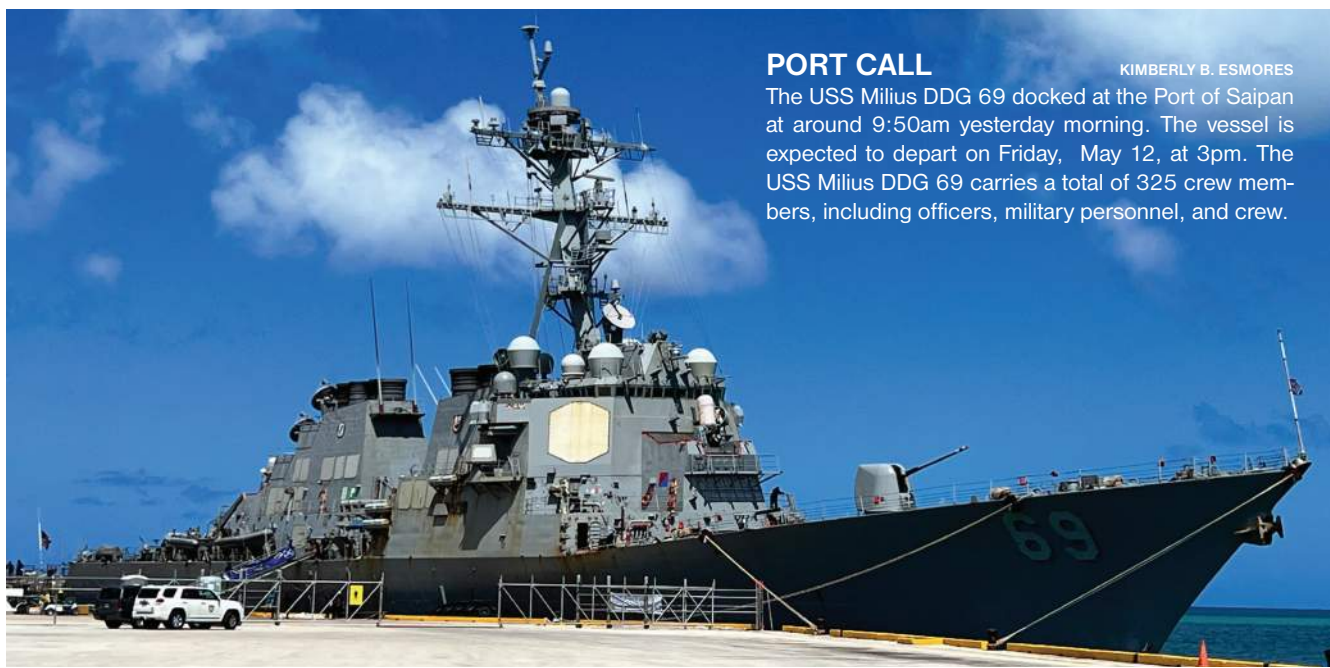


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PORT CALL

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

The USS Milius DDG 69 docked at the Port of Saipan at around 9:50am yesterday morning. The vessel is expected to depart on Friday, May 12, at 3pm. The USS Milius DDG 69 carries a total of 325 crew members, including officers, military personnel, and crew.

Local

'Include contempt charge against former governor'

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

The special prosecutor hired by the Office of the Attorney General in the ongoing criminal case against former governor Ralph DLG Torres has filed a motion with the Superior Court seeking to amend the information against Torres to include the previously dismissed contempt charge.

James "Jim" Kingman has filed a motion asking the Superior Court to allow the prosecution to amend the information against the former governor, specifically to include the previously dismissed contempt charge against Torres.

"The Commonwealth, through special prosecutor James Robert Kingman, hereby requests for leave to amend the information in this case. The Commonwealth seeks amendment of the information to include count XIV, initially charged. This proposed amendment does not necessitate additional discovery," said Kingman.

Back in April 22, 2022, the Commonwealth charged Torres with the following: Count I-XII: Misconduct in Public Office; Count XIII: Theft; and Count XIV: Contempt.

On Aug. 23, 2022, Superior Court judge pro tem Alberto Tolentino issued an order granting in part and denying in part the defendant's motion for the Office of the Attorney General to withdraw or be disqualified as prosecutor.

In that order, the court dismissed Count XIV without prejudice. That charge was initially filed by Chief Solicitor Robert Glass.

tor Robert Glass.

Kingman said the court did note that the charge could be brought by a special prosecutor or other properly screened assistant attorney general.

"James Robert Kingman was admitted to the CNMI Bar pro hac vice as special prosecutor on the present case. In accordance with the court's order, the initially filed Count XIV is eligible to be brought by the special prosecutor," states the motion.

"Rule 7(e) of the Commonwealth Rules of Criminal Procedure permits an Information to be amended at any time before verdict or finding if no additional or different offense is charged and if substantial rights of the defendant are not prejudiced," Kingman added.

Kingman said the Commonwealth further seeks to amend the information by including Counts XV to XII in the proposed amended information. "These counts are within the scope of the initial criminal referral to the Attorney General's Office and, thus within the pro hac vice admission of the special prosecutor. They represent a continued course of conduct by the defendant and include counts only derived from evidence already tendered to defendant," said Kingman.

In addition, Kingman briefly stated in his motion that the prosecution objects to the appointment of judge pro tem Arthur R. Barcinas. "Because of his other duties, the Commonwealth is objecting to the named judge pro tempore, Arthur R. Barcinas," said Kingman.

House committee authorizes Yumul to issue subpoena, letters for info

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Members of the House of Representatives Special Committee on Federal Assistance and Disaster Related Funding agreed yesterday to authorize their chairman, Rep. Ralph N. Yumul (Ind-Saipan),



Yumul

to issue what's referred to as 1309 letters and subpoenas in connection with their investigation into the Torres administration's Building Optimism, Opportunity and Stability Together Program, as well as the American Rescue Plan Act funds.

A Letter 1309 in the Commonwealth Code refers to the acquisition of information by other lawful means.

At the special committee's meeting in the House chamber, members approved vice chair Rep. Edwin K. Propst's (D-Saipan) motion to request that Yumul

receive from the House speaker all communications and bills that are related to federal assistance that are referred to the committee.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

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NMC and TSLF present 10 students with scholarships

By **CHRYSTAL MARINO**
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CORRESPONDENT

The Tan Siu Lin Foundation, in partnership with the Northern Marianas College, presented 10 students with scholarships during a reception ceremony yesterday at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan in Garapan as part of continued efforts to promote and support students pursuing higher education in the CNMI.

The 10 scholarship recipients—Brent Michael Espinosa, Duncan Aaron Laxa, Christine Jewelle Beceril, Carmille Jade Perez, Ejay Luis Aquirre, Patricia Ann Castillon, Ramhae Andrea Awit, Alyssa A. Alegre, Rownel Jody Coloma, and Patricia D. Pak—each received scholarships worth \$1,000 each.

NMC president Galvin Deleon Guerrero, Ed.D., Tan Holdings Corp. president and chief executive officer Jerry Tan, and TSL Foundation

executive director Merlie Tolentino led the presentation of the scholarships to each of the recipients, who were joined by their families at the event.

Tan thanked NMC for their hard work and educational contributions to the community and their continued partnership with the TSL Foundation. “We’re just playing our small role in trying to help the students...,” he said to the assembly of parents and students as well as NMC and TSLF staff. Tan also recognized recipients’ parents, and extended his warm congratulations to students.

Deleon Guerrero encouraged the students and members of the educational community, and gave heartfelt thanks to the TSLF. “Thank you, Jerry, and the Tan Sin Liu Foundation for your wonderful support.”

Castillon shared her gratitude for the scholarship and encouraged other young people to apply for them, noting how these scholarships would greatly help any student in



CHRYSTAL MARINO

The 10 recipients of the Tan Siu Lin Foundation Scholarship pose for a photo yesterday afternoon following the presentation ceremony at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan in Garapan.

ple to apply for them, noting how these scholarships would greatly help any student in

their educational journey. “... Take that chance ‘cause you never know, you might get it.

...I’m really excited, and am really thankful that they are able to open these opportuni-

ties for us and really support us through these scholarships.”

The TSL Foundation is the charitable arms of Tan Holdings Corp.

May brings back-to-back rollback in fuel prices

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
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REPORTER

The CNMI saw yet another rollback in fuel prices late yesterday afternoon, the second reduction in less than a week.

At around 4pm yesterday afternoon, Mobil Oil Marianas led the way with a 10-cent price

drop, less than a week since the last rollback. Shell Marianas expected to follow suit today.

With these changes, Mobil’s Extra fuel dropped from \$5.21 per gallon to \$5.11 per gallon. Mobil’s Supreme fuel also dropped from \$5.66 per gallon to \$5.56 while diesel remains at \$5.43 per gallon.

Prior to yesterday’s rollback, local oil companies dropped their fuel prices last Wednesday from \$5.31 per gallon of regular fuel to \$5.21.

Before the first rollback in May, last April 24, local oil companies also implemented a 10-cent decrease in fuel from \$5.41 per gallon of

regular fuel to \$5.31.

Local motorist shared their enthusiasm about the unexpected rollback.

“I have high hopes. I’m really hoping to see gas drop to \$4 again. With the recent trend, maybe it might,” said a 22-year-old motorist.

A 29-year-old male said he was happily surprised to pull up to the gas station yesterday afternoon.

“I wasn’t planning to gas up, but when I saw gas was like \$5.11, I had to pull up. I was happily surprised,” he said.

House committee: Tobacco tax hikes do reduce smoking use among youth

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee has determined that tobacco tax increases are one of the most effective ways to reduce smoking and other tobacco use, especially among the youth.

The Ways and Means Committee, chaired by Rep. Ray N. Yumul (Ind-Saipan), noted that, nationally, every 10% increase in cigarette prices reduces youth smoking by about 7% and total cigarette consumption by about 4%.

The committee underscored the need to increase tobacco tax collections in its recent report recommending to pass House Bill 23-7 that would amend the Commonwealth Code to increase the tax on tobacco products. The committee report was expected to be adopted at a House special session yesterday, Wednesday.

Rep. John Paul P. Sablan (Ind-Saipan) introduced the bill last Feb. 3 and it was subsequently referred to the Ways and Means Committee for disposition.

According to the committee, the potential collections for a scenario of a pack containing

.45 ounces in each pack sold at a price of \$8 per package would amount to approximately \$4.80.

If a total of 1,000 packages were sold within the CNMI a year, this would increase excise tax collections for these tobacco products by \$4,800.

The committee said the CNMI’s current definition of “cigarette” under the Commonwealth Code of its excise tax laws allows for certain tobacco products to avoid the excise tax rate imposed on cigarettes.

Specifically, the committee said, tobacco products that are labelled as “cigars” or “filtered cigars,” when considering their packaging, design, intended use, and actual use, are more like cigarettes than cigars.

The committee noted that other jurisdictions have recognized “filtered cigars,” also known as “little cigars,” as cigarettes for state excise purposes, or otherwise increased the taxes imposed on these products to the same rate as cigarettes, to tax these products for what they are and appear to be, and not based

solely on the labelling.

Sablan’s legislation updates the definition of “cigarette” in order to properly tax tobacco products.

The committee cited that every state that has significantly increased its cigarette tax has enjoyed substantial increases in revenue, even while reducing smoking.

The committee said higher tobacco taxes also save money by reducing tobacco-related health care costs, including Medicaid expenses.

The committee said the CNMI can realize even greater health benefits and cost savings by allocating some of the revenue to programs that prevent children from smoking and help smokers quit.

Two similar legislations were introduced and passed by the previous 21st and 22nd House.

On the bill’s cost-benefit analysis, the committee said if implemented, it will increase tobacco tax collections for a category of tobacco products that are not currently taxed.

The committee said this will apply a tax imposed on “roll your own” tobacco products purchased by consumers that they make themselves.



Sablan

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WOMAN

From Page 1

Chalan Kanoa since May 5, 1948. Taylor, who is celebrating her 75th birthday this year, has traveled all the way from Arkansas where she lives with her husband, John, and they both arrived on Saipan exactly on her birthday. Taylor’s husband, John shared that until recently, he didn’t know that a visit to Saipan was on his wife’s bucket list until he asked her if she’d like to visit and she readily agreed. The trip took six months of planning and Taylor said it was definitely an

emotional trip for her. “From the time he had said we’d go, until we got on the plane I was a nervous wreck,” she laughed. Taylor noted that she had requested their travel agent to get them to land on Saipan on her birthday, which they were able to do, and after 20-plus hours of travel, they touched down on Saipan at 4:30am last Friday. Taylor, who was born just three months before her family left Saipan, admits that she has no recollection of the small island where she was born, and that she and her family left in the summer of 1948. Taylor shared that her brothers used to tease her that they had found her under a rock on Saipan.

Taylor shared that growing up in a military family, her family, the Huckabys, moved around several times to other islands including Guam. She shared that her father was a master sergeant in the U.S. Marines, and was stationed on Saipan for nearly over a year, before the military base on Saipan closed in 1948. Just three months prior to their departure, Taylor was born at the Navy Hospital. During their weeklong visit, the couple was able to see most of the island’s major sites, and drove around her birth town in Chalan Kanoa. Compared to the photographs her family has of the Saipan

75 years ago, she said it is certainly different from what she had been expecting to see. “We got a lot of beach photographs,” she told *Saipan Tribune*, sharing the old black-and-white photos of her family playing in Chalan Kanoa beaches and going on hikes in the rustic Saipan. “It’s a lot different,” she noted, adding that she had felt saddened to see the still-unrepaired damage caused by Super Typhoon Yutu in 2018. “It breaks my heart.” Overall, coming to Saipan was definitely an emotional journey for Taylor, from getting to learn the island’s history, to visiting major sights and landmarks, enjoying the beaches

of Chalan Kanoa and the sunsets that she thinks are beautiful. Coming from a landlocked state, Taylor said they don’t have the constant view of the ocean and beaches, so her walks along the fine sandy beaches near her hotel and her reaction to the tiny crabs along Marine Beach were novel experiences. She said she and her husband got to drive around the island, sightseeing and making new friends. “Everybody here has been so nice and so friendly...” she said. The couple will be on island until Wednesday morning, on May 10, when they will take the early flight home.

MALLARI

From Page 1

competition last Friday at the CNMI Superior Court. Mallari, a 17-year-old senior at Mount Carmel School, took home the prestigious AG’s Cup last Friday after delivering a powerful speech on affirmative action, putting her on the long list of Knights who have previously claimed the cup for MCS. The victory officially makes Mallari the 20th MCS Knight to take home the cup. “This is my first time competing for the AG’s Cup, though MCS does have a long legacy of producing winners. I’m our school’s 20th winner and 17th under my coach, Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero,” she said. When asked how she felt about her triumph, Mallari said winning the cup felt like a full-circle moment. “I’ve always wanted to audition to represent my school as a speaker, and I’m glad it was resumed in my last year. Throughout the whole process, which took around two-and-a-half months, I’ve been showered with unconditional support from my teachers, peers, and coaches. My main goal while preparing for the competition was really to uphold and honor the MCS legacy. My two other

coaches, Mr. Zeno Deleon Guerrero and Ms. Victoria Deleon Guerrero, were previous AG’s Cup champions, too, so I felt really privileged to be under their care. I like to call them the holy trinity as our school refers to them as the ‘single letter adults’: Dr. G, Mr. Z, and Ms. V. And even after the competition, I still receive overwhelming support from everyone at my school and many fellow AlumKnights. [The] AG’s Cup is something we take very seriously; one way we like to put it is how it’s our school’s version of the Super Bowl. I’m very grateful to be part of the long (and ever-growing) line of champions whose names are engraved onto the cup,” she said. This year’s topic prompt tackled the issue of affirmative action. “The stance I took for my speech was on overturning affirmative action as we tend to forget that the original intent of affirmative action was and is to affirm equity, whether it be in the workforce or higher education. The purpose of affirmative action today has been misconstrued to simply diversify colleges and universities, and it disregards underlying problems of keeping students in colleges and helping them succeed. This is especially important for students in the Northern Marianas, which was my inspiration when writing and per-

forming,” she said. “A portion of my speech stated, ‘Affirmative action may have helped them gain admission, but at what cost when they face accusations of reverse discrimination and doubts about their ability?’ It’s a question that really sinks in as a senior in high school. Students of color deserve more than just to be a statistic for diversity,” she added. The 2023 AG Cup champ encourages her peers to join the AG’s Cup competition, if they have the passion for it, as it is a chance to amplify the voice of the youth. “These yearly topics are controversial issues that our government and nation debate heavily, and it’s both important and impressive to hear high school students take their stance. It’s also something that can’t be done overnight. My speech was a collective effort of thoughts, opinions, and research, which impassioned me to deliver a speech I feel deeply connected to. If you feel passionate about what you speak, the message will flow out of you. It’s a story not just for the judges but also for the community to listen to and feel,” Mallari said. Mallari, who has seen her fair share of speech and debate competitions much like the AG Cup, says she plans on majoring in political science so she can someday practice law.

“I will be attending the University of San Diego this fall, with plans to major in political science and business administration, and eventually practice law. Other than AG’s Cup, I have been traveling for National Speech and Debate tournaments yearly since the 6th grade. It was there where my interest in social reform began. I also competed for my school’s mock trial team, where I was exposed to the world of law,” she said. Deleon Guerrero said that, after more than 20 years as MCS AG’s Cup coach, he is still impressed by what students like Mallari have to say every year. “Every year, I feel privileged to work with students on speech teams who work diligently to conduct ex-

tensive research, examine different sides of a contentious issue, and then develop a compelling argument supported by ample evidence and articulated with rhetorical eloquence. And every year, I am impressed by what all competing students have to say and offer to our public discourse. So, whether we win or lose, for me as an educator, I am inspired by the hard work and impressed by thoughtful insights that all these students bring to the competition,” he said. Another one of Mallari’s coaches, Zeno Deleon Guerrero, shared that he, and the entire MCS family, are beyond proud of her.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

SHORTFALL

From Page 1

In a letter to Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang Tuesday last week, Borja said immediate action is needed in order for the agency to comply with federal rules and regulations. She said if CNMI wishes to stop or limit services for otherwise eligible for federal financial participation at any point, a State Plan Amendment is required that must specify what services will be affected and provide advance notices to the beneficiaries. In the event the CNMI government will fully fund the agency at 100% local funding, compliance with the State Plan is optional, Borja said. She urged Palacios and Apatang to pay immediate attention to this matter, considering that many individuals and families rely solely on Medicaid for their healthcare needs. She added that Medicaid providers on and off-island will be significantly impacted by this matter and relationship with off-island providers will be jeopardized. Borja said this will affect the future of much needed off-island medical treatment. In an April 4, 2023, letter to Palacios, Borja projected a \$4.8-million financial shortfall for the Medicaid program. She mentioned in that letter that the amount may change due to the interim monthly payments made to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. using the Certified Public Expenditure methodology. In her letter last week, Borja said CHCC’s interim monthly payments are currently calculated using fiscal year

2020. However, she said, CHCC has officially submitted their most recent as-filed Medicare cost report reflecting fiscal year 2022, which will be used to recalculate the interim payments. The acting director said it is at the CNMI’s discretion when and how to apply the revised interim payments if a revision is done in the middle of the fiscal year. Borja said that, as of May 1, 2023, the remaining amount of the CNMI’s federal Medicaid funds is \$19.32 million. Borja said she analyzed the figures and applied them to three scenarios. In option 1, the CNMI government makes retroactive payment in the amount of \$3.0 million covering October 2022 to April 2023, then reserves payments in the amount of \$11.5 million for the period from May to September 2023. The remaining funds would be exhausted immediately, resulting in a \$20.7 million total Medicaid financial shortfall. In option 2, the CNMI government will not make a retroactive payment, and will apply new rates totaling \$11.5 million from May through September 2023. The estimated remaining federal Medicaid funds is \$7.7 million, but this will be fully exhausted in June 2023. The total Medicaid financial shortfall under this scenario is \$11.7 million. In option 3, the CNMI government will make no retroactive payment and will reserve payments in the amount of \$8.2 million for the period of May to September 2023. An estimated \$11.0 million in Medicaid funds is left, which will be exhausted in July 2023, but no later than August 2023. The total Medicaid financial shortfall is \$8.4 million.

LB

From Page 1

In a disconnection notice and demand for payment issued last Wednesday, acting CUC executive director Betty G. Terlaje informed Legislative Bureau director Perry John P. Tenorio that power and water services to the legislative building will be terminated on May 18, 2023, if no payment or settlement is not made. Terlaje said the Legislative Bureau’s outstanding arrears add to the already struggling financial health of CUC, which relies on these payments to provide 24-hour power, water, and wastewater services to the CNMI. In his response to Terlaje’s disconnection notice, Tenorio said Thursday they aim to settle all arrears by the May 18 deadline. In the process of revising the fiscal year 2023 budget, Tenorio said they successfully secured adequate funding for their utility account and have been updating their payables to CUC since the revised budget became law last April 25.

» Tenorio says they aim to settle arrears by the May 15 deadline » \$15,121 of \$38,487 in outstanding balance belongs to six accounts by two representatives and 2 former representatives

Tenorio also noted that several aged receivables listed in CUC’s aging accounts receivables, totaling \$15,121, are not the responsibility of the Legislative Bureau. Instead, he said, these receivable from six accounts should be charged to the legislative offices of specific lawmakers. According to CUC’s list of aging accounts receivables, two accounts belong to the office of Rep. John Paul P. Sablan (Ind-Saipan), one account is for a Kagman street light by former representative Lorenzo Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), one account is for the Gualo Rai basketball court by Rep.

Vicente C. Camacho (D-Saipan), and two accounts are by the office of former representative Richard T. Lizama (D-Saipan). In CUC’s disconnection notice, Terlaje said CUC has continuously informed Tenorio and the bureau, as well as the Department of Finance, of the outstanding arrears and the importance of making timely payments to CUC. Terlaje said that, as of today, there have not been regular payments or commitments to settle the arrears. In his response, Tenorio said the Legislative Bureau acknowledges CUC’s claim and assures that they are taking every possible step to ensure payments are up to date. Tenorio said it is important to also highlight that the utilities money allocated in the general fund has been consistently underfunded in the past two fiscal years. Fortunately, he said, the bureau received an American Rescue Plan Act allocation in fiscal year 2022, that helped address this shortfall. However, due to the overspending of the ARPA funds, the availability of this money is now uncertain in fiscal year 2023.

Palacios hopes CNMI drew interest at Investment Summit



Gov. Arnold I. Palacios poses with Guam Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero at one of the opening events for the 2023 SelectUSA conference in Washington, D.C.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios said Tuesday they are hopeful that at least one or two big companies that participated in the 2023 SelectUSA Investment Summit in Washington, D.C. will invest in the CNMI.

Palacios, who just came from the four-day summit, told

reporters that their trip went well, although their schedule was very tight.

“We were able to meet a lot of people,” said the governor; he commended the team from the Commonwealth Economic Development Authority, Northern Marianas College, and the Department of Commerce that went with him.

“They really did a tremen-

dous job with our exhibition booth,” he said.

Palacios said they are hopeful that at least one or two big companies from Taiwan, India, Japan, and other foreign countries that were there will take a look and in-

vest in the Commonwealth.

He said most of the companies that were at the summit were involved in the fields of high technology, renewables, and robotics.

The governor said many walked away with the

CNMI’s brochures. “We ran out of our brochures. That’s an indication of something positive. We are very hopeful,” Palacios said.

He said they are thankful to the U.S. Department of Commerce secretary for inviting

the territories to the summit.

“That’s probably the first time all territorial governors were invited and sat on a panel and did a presentation,” Palacios said. “Thank you for giving us the exposure that we really needed.”

BULLET POINTS OF PALACIOS’ TRIP

Along with other U.S. insular area governors, Gov. Arnold I. Palacios was in Washington, D.C. last week to attend the 2023 SelectUSA Investment Summit, organized by the U.S. Department of Commerce, as part of the CNMI’s efforts to attract new investments to the CNMI.

The SelectUSA Investment Summit is the highest-profile event dedicated to promoting Foreign Direct Investment in the U.S. and U.S. territories, including the CNMI. This year’s summit featured thousands of attendees representing over 80 markets, as well as over 1,900 foreign investors who have been vetted by the U.S. Department of Commerce.

For the first time, the summit also included an in-person session that specifically focused on investment opportunities in the U.S. territories. During this session, Palacios joined other insular area governors in engaging companies and organizations about the benefits and advantages of investing in the CNMI and other territories. Those who spoke at the session included American Samoa Gov. Lemanu Palepoi Sialega Mauga, Guam Gov. Lourdes “Lou” Leon Guerrero, Puer-

to Rico Gov. Pedro Pierluisi, and U.S. Virgin Islands Lt. Gov. Tregenza A. Roach.

Palacios also spoke at the roundtable event with U.S. Commerce Secretary Gina M. Raimondo to discuss investment opportunities in the CNMI.

■ Since its inception, SelectUSA has facilitated more than \$146 billion in investment, creating and/or retaining over 166,000 U.S. jobs.

■ “The Commonwealth’s participation in this Summit will raise the CNMI’s exposure to hundreds of foreign direct investors that have been screened by the U.S. Department of Commerce,” said Palacios.

■ “There are numerous potential industries that we can develop in the CNMI to diversify our economy, and participation in the SelectUSA Summit [was] a timely, cost-effective, and appropriate way to meet with hundreds

of pre-selected investors in a single place.”

■ Palacios was also invited by the Japan embassy and India embassy who facilitated introductions to investors from those countries. He spoke to more than 200 participants at the Indian Embassy-hosted event.

■ Palacios also participated in an event hosted by JETRO, or the Japan External Trade Organization, which is a government-related organization that works to promote mutual trade and investment between Japan and other countries.

■ Representatives of the U.S. government who participated in the summit included State Secretary Antony Blinken, Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm, White House senior advisor and Infrastructure Implementation coordinator Mitch Landrieu, and Reta Jo Lewis, president and chair of the Export-Import

Bank of the United States.

■ SelectUSA also promotes and facilitates business investment into the United States by coordinating related federal government agencies to serve as a single point of contact for investors. SelectUSA assists U.S. economic development organizations to compete globally for investment by providing information, a platform for international marketing, and high-level advocacy.

■ According to the U.S. Department of Commerce, “Since the beginning of the Biden administration, companies have committed over \$435 billion in private sector investments across the United States—one third of which is attributed to foreign investment—and create good-paying jobs in industries that will boost U.S. competitiveness, rebuild infrastructure, strengthen supply chains, and help build a clean energy economy.” (PR)

Bill seeks to removes marijuana from pre-employment drug test

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rep. Diego Vincent F. Camacho (D-Saipan) has introduced a bill that seeks to remove marijuana from all pre-employment drug testing for government applicants—with certain exceptions.

Under Camacho’s House Bill 23-50, pre-employment testing of persons applying for any position within the CNMI government shall not include testing for the presence of marijuana.

The exceptions, however, are applicants for government jobs in safety sensitive positions such as those operating motor vehicles, heavy machinery, emergency services, or the carrying of firearms.

Camacho states in the legislation that marijuana, which is no longer an illegal drug under the CNMI law, should not be included in the pre-employment testing for prospective employees, except for specific employees like law enforcement officers, firefighters, first responders, employees in safety sensitive positions, and federally funded employees.

However, the lawmaker

said, employees should still be subject to reasonable suspicion testing and post-accident testing to comply with the policy that employees shall not be under the influence of alcohol or drugs when at work.

Several other representatives co-sponsored the bill.



Camacho

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
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PHONE: (1-670) 237-6500 / 1 • FAX: (1-670) 234-5962
WEBSITE: WWW.CNMI-PORTS.COM

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES TO PERFORM A DESK AUDIT AND PERFORMANCE REVIEW OF THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY EXECUTIVE STAFF AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS.
PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-009-23

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA), a public Corporation of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, hereby requests proposals from qualified and experienced firm(s) to provide professional services to perform a desk audit and performance review of the CPA executive staff and board of the directors. The Executive Director hereby determines that the use of an Invitation for Bid is neither practical nor advantageous to the CPA because the CPA wishes to acquire services and/or products that cannot be evaluated by price alone (NMIAC § 40-50-225 (a)).

The Proposal Package is available for pick-up beginning Tuesday, April 11, 2023, at the CPA Accounting Office, 2nd Floor, Departure Terminal Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport upon payment of an administrative fee of \$50.00. Payment shall be made in cash, credit card, cashier's check or U.S. postal money order payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority. All applicants shall pay the reasonable administrative fee of \$50.00 to receive a copy of the proposal.

CPA will hold a briefing for interested parties at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, April 21, 2023, to explain CPA's RFP objectives, the RFP process, and to answer questions. The meeting will be held in the CPA Meeting Room located on the 1st Floor of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport (next to the Bank of Guam ATM machine). Attendance by potential applicants is encouraged but not mandated.

Questions and/or clarification regarding this procurement should be submitted in writing to Ms. Lorna Robert via email at cpa.admin@pticom.com, hand delivery, U.S. postal service mail or facsimile transmission to 670-234-5962 on or before April 28, 2023.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as “RFP for professional services to perform a desk audit and performance review of the CPA Executive Staff and CPA Board of Directors, Project No. CPA-RFP-009-23”. One (1) original and two (2) copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than 4:00 p.m. CHST, May 11, 2023, to the CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor, Saipan International Airport. Proposals submitted by facsimile (fax) transmission will not be considered. Any proposals received after the submittal deadline shall be rejected and returned unopened.

All proposals shall become the property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority. This RFP shall be executed as per the CPA Procurement Regulations.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-23-018

OFFICE SPACE LEASE FOR CUC ROTA's ADMINISTRATIVE FUNCTIONS & OPERATIONS

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the lease of a suitable office and operations support facility for the Headquarters of CUC's Administration and Operations on the island of Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The proposed office space must comply with American Disabilities Act (ADA), DPW, OSHA and CNMI Zoning regulation.

The IFB package may be obtained at the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration with CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The IFB package will be emailed to the registered Proponents email ID. For registration inquiries, please email Marcela Tenorio, CUC Senior Administrative Technician via email address, marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked “CUC-IFB-23-018, Office Space Lease for CUC Rota's Administrative Functions and Operations.” to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on May 23, 2023**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before submission deadline. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on May 2, 2023** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Alvin King, CUC Rota Resident Manager at email address alvin.king@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio at marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

DR. DALLAS M. PEAVEY JR.
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLON
Purchasing Administrator

Month highlights need for national water safety



Law enforcers join acting governor David M. Apatang after a proclamation ceremony last Tuesday at the Office of the Governor on Capital Hill that designates the month of May as National Water Safety Month.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

By **CHRYSTAL MARINO**
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

Promoting water safety and encouraging better water safety practices in the Marianas, acting governor David M. Apatang designated the month of May as National Water Safety Month during a short procla-

mation ceremony last Tuesday at the Office of the Governor on Capital Hill.

Members of the U.S. Coast Guard, the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, the Division of Customs and Biosecurity, 500 Sails, the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter,

and partnering departments, agencies, and service organizations joined Apatang and members of the community for the occasion.

The proclamation highlights the importance of water safety rules and practices, and urges the promotion of these regulations to hopefully prevent

more water-related injuries and deaths. The proclamation also recognized the contributions made by the recreational water industry, which is represented through the National Water Safety Month Coalition and participating organizations. The coalition's is heavily involved in efforts



Acting governor David M. Apatang signs a proclamation that designates the month of May as National Water Safety Month. The signing took place last Tuesday at the Office of the Governor on Capital Hill.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

NOAA seeking public comments on proposed Pacific Remote Islands sanctuary designation

» **Four public comment meetings to be held in May**

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries has begun the process to consider a national marine sanctuary in and around the waters of the Pacific Remote Islands. Public scoping is the first phase in the designation process, during which the public can comment through June 2 on the scope of issues and impacts to be considered for a proposed sanctuary. Comments may be submitted online, by mail, in person or virtually at public scoping meetings.

The proposed area in the central Pacific Ocean includes marine areas within the existing Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument, as well as currently unprotected submerged lands and waters, to the full extent of the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone, an area totaling about 770,000 square miles. Terrestrial areas are not included in the proposed sanctuary.

The public is invited to comment on the proposed sanctuary designation through June 2, 2023, through the Federal eRulemaking Portal, www.regulations.gov, by searching for docket number NOAA-NOS-2023-0052. Comments may also be mailed if postmarked by June 2, 2023.

What

NOAA will host in-person public meetings, with an option to join virtually. During the meet-

TO COMMENT ONLINE:

- **Visit:** www.regulations.gov
- **Docket #:** NOAA-NOS-2023-0052
- **Deadline:** June 2, 2023

ings, NOAA will gather input on boundaries, compatible uses, threats a new sanctuary would address, how best to promote marine science and education initiatives and other topics as described in the Notice of Intent that NOAA published in the *Federal Register*. The input NOAA receives from the public will assist the agency with the preparation and release of draft designation documents, and in formulating alternatives for the draft envi-

ronmental impact statement.

When and where:

How to comment (through June 2, 2023)

Be Heard at Public Comment Meetings (In-person and virtual):

An informational Open House will be held for one hour immediately before each listed meeting.

■ **May 17, 2023, 6pm - 8pm (ChST):** Guam Museum, 193 Chalan Santo Papa Juan Pablo Dos, Hagåtña, Guam 96910. Participate virtually: attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/9157732722963901017 (Open House at 5pm)

■ **May 18, 2023, 6pm - 8pm (ChST):** American Memorial Park, 924 Micro Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, MP 96950. Participate virtually: attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8309780559530048350 (Open House at 5pm)

■ **May 19, 2023, 2pm - 4pm (ChST):** Office of the Mayor of Rota, San Francisco de Borja Highway, Tatachog, Rota, MP 96951. (Open House at 1pm; in-person only, no virtual participation.)

■ **May 20, 2023, 2pm -**

4pm (ChST): Tinian Public Library, San Jose Village, Tinian, MP 96952. (Open House at 1pm; in-person only, no virtual participation.)

NOAA may be taking audio recordings of the public meetings including the public comment portion of the meetings.

Submit written comments online:

Submit all electronic public comments through the Federal eRulemaking Portal, www.regulations.gov. Search for "NOAA-NOS-2023-0052". Click the "Comment Now!" icon, complete the required fields, and enter or attach your comments.

Mailed comments must be postmarked by June 2, 2023. Send comments to:

PRI-Proposed Sanctuary, NOAA/ONMS % Hoku Kaaekuahiwi Pousima 76 Kamehameha Ave. Hilo, HI 96720

A detailed description of the proposed sanctuary, based on the nomination submitted by the Pacific Remote Islands Coalition, as well as additional information about opportunities to provide comment, can be found at <https://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/pacific-remote-islands>. (*NOAA National Marine Sanctuaries*)

to develop safe swimming facilities, aquatic programs, and further educate the public on water safety.

During the proclamation signing, Apatang called on the people of the Commonwealth to acknowledge the importance of water safety. "Prioritizing safety and following proper precautions is essential, whether you

are swimming, boating, or spending time at the beach. Through this, we can prevent drownings and water-related injuries," he said.

With summertime nearing, the CNMI isn't the only one recognizing and highlighting water safety, but many other countries will also be taking part of the observation this month.

NAVFAC Pacific awards Japan-funded contract for Guam facility

Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command Pacific awarded a \$106.9 million firm-fixed price task order to Core Tech-HDCC-Kajima, LLC of Tamuning, Guam on April 26 for the construction of an embarkation facility at Naval Base Guam in Apra Harbor.

The contract supports the Defense Policy Review Initiative and is funded by the Japan government as part of the international agreement between the United States and Japan.

"This contract is the fourth of 12 Defense Policy Review Initiative military construction projects planned to be awarded by NAVFAC Pacific in fiscal year 2023 and is a significant step toward providing full capability for the Marine Corps on Guam," said NAVFAC Pacific Guam Program

Management Office acting director Rick Barnes.

The work to be performed includes, but is not limited to, construction of a facility to be used for embarkation and debarkation by the Third Marine Expeditionary Force on ships at Naval Base Guam in Apra Harbor. The facility consists of wash and inspection areas, cargo staging areas, bio-secure holding area, wash water recycling and storm water retention and infiltration basin, and incidental related work.

"This project will provide required port embarkation capabilities that includes vital environmental protections to ensure full compliance with Guam's environmental regulations," said Barnes.

Work will be performed in Guam, with an expected completion date of October 2026. (*USN*)

US Coast Guard donates to Saipan Humane Society

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia Sector Guam has donated animal supplies and food to the Saipan Humane Society Tuesday morning.

They donated more than 50 bags of dog and cat food, crates, food bowls, leashes, towels, shampoo, laundry soap, litter boxes, puppy pads, treats, and more.

"We could not be more grateful for the help of the crew of Coast Guard cutter *Frederick Hatch*," said SHS founder Lauren Cabrera.

"We are glad we had the opportunity to help out the new Saipan Humane Society," said USS *Frederick Hatch* commanding officer Lt. Patrick Dreiss. "Coast Guard cut-



The crew of the U.S. Coast Guard cutter *Frederick Hatch* offloads donations for the Saipan Humane Society Tuesday morning at the Port of Saipan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

team toward the common goal of minimizing animal suffering through humane population management, and they've jumped on board to assist with the clinics as well," she said.

SHS looks forward to wel-

coming two veterinarians for a spay/neuter clinic later this month. One veterinarian will also be available for sick visits to address specific medical concerns.

If you are interested in making an appointment, visit www.saipanhumane.org or send a WhatsApp message to (670) 838-7387. Please do not call as they are a small operation and may not be able to answer the phone.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Saipan Mayor's Dog Control Program was helped transport the donated supplies to the animal shelter in As Perdido.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

SINMI-NMI Chapter meeting set

The Soroptimist International of the Northern Mariana Islands Chapter will hold its monthly luncheon meeting on Thursday, May 11, at 12pm at the Dolphin Restaurant in Garapan. Join us to help continue our work for the "Best for Women" in the CNMI!

The club is accepting new members! Come and meet us and see what this 100-plus-year-old organization is all about. (PR)

SHRM membership meeting on May 12

The CNMI Chapter of the Society for Human Resource Management will host a membership meeting on Friday, May 12, 2023, at the Saipan World Resort Sunflower Ballroom, from 11:30pm to 2:30pm. Doors will open at 11am.

John J. Rivera, director of HR & Corporate Development at Citadel Pacific, Ltd., will guide SHRM members in unlocking personality type and provide tools to leverage the understanding of people in the workplace, improve leadership, and socially engineer more conducive working environments.

The following fees apply:

- \$30 for members
- \$35 for non-members

This meeting will include lunch. Seating is limited. (PR)

Free PTAC webinars

The Guam Procurement Technical Assistance Center is offering free webinars for May 2023. Webinars are held every Thursday from 10am to 11:30am via Zoom. Zoom links are emailed to all registered attendees 30 minutes before the webinar.

■ May 11, 2023 – DSBS - SBA's Dynamic Small Busi-

ness Search is a database of small businesses registered to sell their products/services to the Federal government. Prime contractors, subcontractors, and government officials use the DSBS for market research. Small businesses use the DSBS to highlight their business strengths. The Guam PTAC will discuss strategies to best showcase your business in the DSBS.

■ May 18, 2023 – Federal Contract Opportunities - SAM.gov is the portal for Federal Contract Opportunities. The Guam PTAC will show you how to use the website to ensure you do not miss any opportunities. Opportunity types, search filters, and search strategies will be discussed.

■ May 25, 2023 – PIEW/ WAWF - Department of Defense vendors use the Wide-Area Workflow module in the Procurement Integrated Enterprise Environment system to create, submit, and track their invoices. The Guam PTAC will show you how to set up an account and submit an invoice, so you get paid on time.

Register at <https://www.guamptac.com/news-and-events.php> (PTAC)

GCC board meeting on Thursday

The Guam Community College Board of Trustees will hold its monthly board meeting on Thursday, May 11, 2023, at 12pm at Guam Community College in Room 112, Learning Resource Center (GCC Library), Building 4000. All attendees are encouraged to wear a mask on the GCC campus.

Individuals requiring special accommodations, auxiliary aids, or services should contact (671)735-5641 Ext. 5594/5597. (PR)

ness Search is a database of small businesses registered to sell their products/services to the Federal government. Prime contractors, subcontractors, and government officials use the DSBS for market research. Small businesses use the DSBS to highlight their business strengths. The Guam PTAC will discuss strategies to best showcase your business in the DSBS.

According to Cabrera, the

Saipan Mayor's Dog Control Program was eager to assist with transporting the supplies to the animal shelter in As Perdido.

"Like I always say, we are so grateful for their partnership. We work together as a

Military, Palau reps in HI for biannual Compact meet



Rear Adm. Benjamin Nicholson, the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command senior military official for the Republic of Palau, along with Palau President Surangel Whipps Jr., and senior leaders from INDOPACOM and Palau met May 3-4 for the biannual bilateral Joint Committee Meeting in Honolulu, Hawaii.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

HONOLULU, Hawaii—Rear Adm. Benjamin Nicholson, the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command senior military official for the Republic of Palau, along with Palau President Surangel Whipps Jr., and senior leaders from INDOPACOM and Palau met May 3-4 for the biannual bilateral Joint Committee Meeting in Honolulu, Hawaii.

The JCM is in accordance with the Compact of Free Association Title III:

Security and Defense Relations, and enables ongoing dialogue between nations, which prove to enhance security and defense responsibilities in the region.

"Palau is a key partner for the United States in our efforts to maintain a free and open Indo-Pacific region," Nicholson said. "I firmly believe these forums foster relationships, rapport and a shared understanding that is critical to defense of the Mi-

cronesian region."

The JCM agenda included defense responsibilities, infrastructure building, environmental protection procedures, and regional military training.

Nicholson reiterated his appreciation for the robust dialogue with the Palau delegation, the broad technical expertise and leadership experience brought to the table and he thanked them for their partnership during his tour.

"It has been my honor and

privilege to represent INDOPACOM during my tenure in the region and especially here during another excellent engagement with the leadership of Palau," Nicholson said during his closing remarks at the JCM in Honolulu. "The experiences I've had with you all have been nothing short of spectacular and I look forward to watching how the great progress made here manifests in our mission in the Pacific." (PR)

Opinion

Hafa Adair

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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EDITORIAL

More disturbing news from the nation's report card

Those well-steeped in our nation's history long ago learned the inspiring story of how President George Washington delivered his stirring Gettysburg Address, a four-hour oration, in an effort to revive hope among Americans struggling during the Great Depression of the 1920s.

Or maybe not.

On Wednesday, the National Assessment of Educational Progress—the nation's “report card”—released the results of standardized tests given last year to eighth graders across the country on civics and history. Turn away if you seek to avoid depressing news.

Just 13% of students met proficiency standards in history, meaning “they could explain major themes, periods, events, people, ideas and turning points in the country's history,” according to The Wall Street Journal. About 20% reached proficiency in civics.

In other words, only a small percentage of American kids poised to enter high school probably would be able to identify more than two errors in this essay's lead sentence, if they could identify any of the obvious mistakes at all.

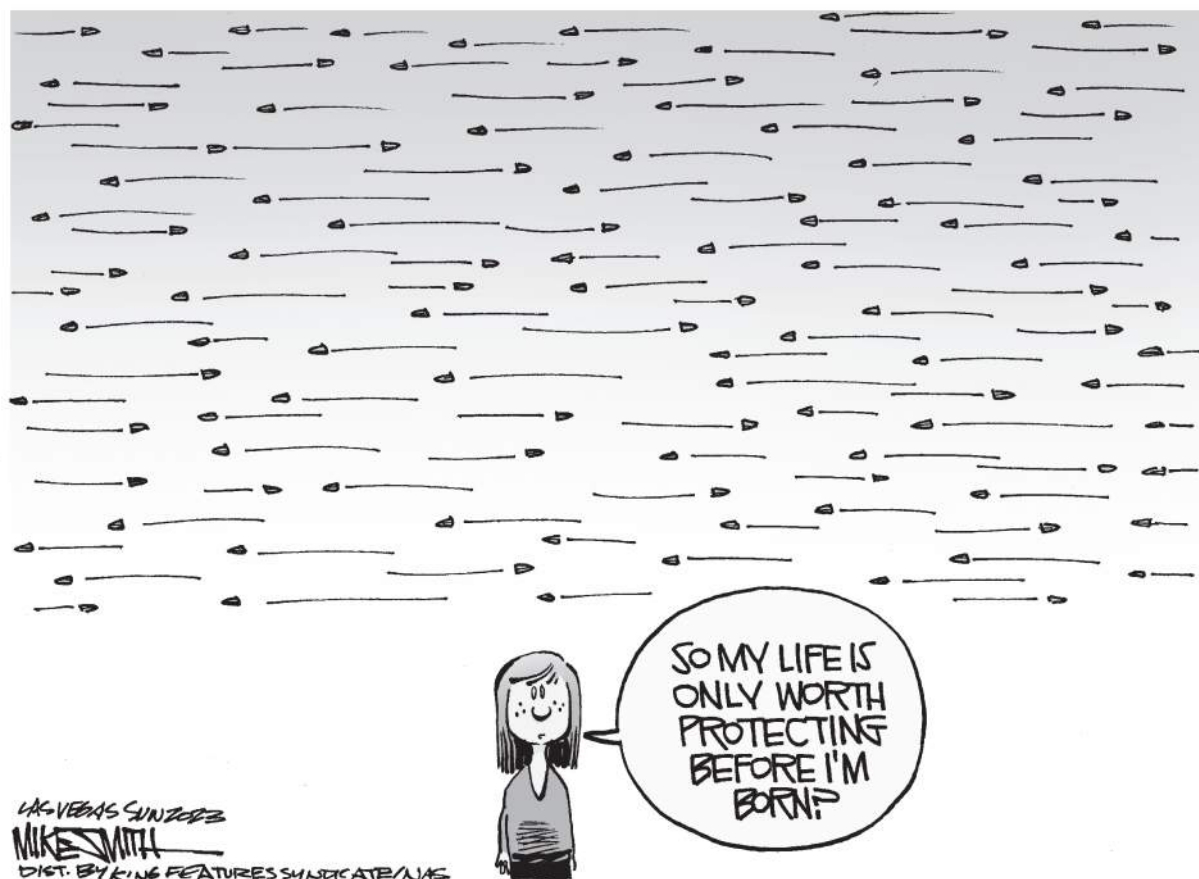
The scores were the most miserable on record for a test that has been in existence for decades. In fact, students scored worse on these two subjects than in any other areas, including reading and math. “These data are a national concern,” Peggy Carr, commissioner of the National Center for Education Statistics, told reporters. “The health of our democracy depends on informed and engaged citizens.”

Various interests pointed fingers in an effort to place blame for this dismal development. The pandemic was an obvious culprit, and no doubt didn't help. James Grossman of the American Historical Society cited “the falling quality of history and civics lessons taught in American schools, which has been fueled by political acrimony,” the Journal reported.

Fair enough. But acrimonious battles over curricula involving politically controversial issues such as race are meaningless to kids when they lack the basic facts upon which to build a foundation that supports critical thinking and leads to the examination of more complex—and even contentious—subject matter. The great failure of this nation's public school system is that students aren't learning even elementary skills when it comes to reading and mathematics or even the simplest of facts in terms of history and civics.

The current push to ensure students are exposed to a more complete and robust view of this nation's history—warts and all—is wise and worthwhile. Yet it makes little sense if kids don't first develop a grasp of the fundamentals before moving on to more challenging subject matter.

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Here is why ChatGPT can never replace writers, educators or humans in general

Recent advances in artificial intelligence have given rise to hyperbolic predictions of the decline of many human roles and professions.

In fact, purported AI platforms such as ChatGPT will never be meaningful replacements for writers, educators or people in general. To understand why this is true, it is critical to remind ourselves of what ChatGPT is and how its architecture and capabilities relate to the science of human learning and the arts of writing and teaching, respectively.

Despite popular suggestions to the contrary, ChatGPT simply cannot think or reason in any meaningful way. ChatGPT is the most recognized of a host of large language models that have paired a longstanding linguistic corpus technique—which trains computers to analyze data sets of language—with more modern technology and algorithms to produce the appearance of an intelligent response.

In truth, ChatGPT and its siblings use advanced pattern recognition and a bank of millions of textual examples to mimic communication. Yet they lack the ability to understand the meaning and context of the language they produce. In many ways then, ChatGPT is much closer to a highly sophisticated auto-complete feature on your phone than an actual intelligence, though with vastly greater scale and complexity.

Noam Chomsky, the eminent linguist and philosopher who revolutionized our understanding of language, once famously noted that the phrase “colorless green ideas sleep furiously,” while grammatically correct, is seemingly nonsensical.

Yet, this phrase touched upon two of the most important features of human language that ChatGPT lacks: First, language is fundamentally a process of free creation. Follow the rules of grammar, and you can express meaning related to anything from deductive arguments and poetry to nonsense. The ability to create truly unique and novel utterances—including new words, concepts and perspectives—is what imbues us with our very humanity and allows us to grow and learn beyond our own basic “programming” of instinct.

Second, this phrase also reminds us that a large amount of natural human language is symbolic and metaphorical. While poetry and literary metaphor are one part of this, everyday metaphor is a much larger phenomenon that allows us to communicate beyond the literal. Telling someone that you are “trying to keep your head above water” at work is nonsensical when interpreted literally, yet extremely meaningful to a human mind that can understand the shared conceptual relationships between overwhelming workload and the struggle to not drown.

While ChatGPT can respond to creative inquiries and even some metaphorical prompts with seemingly meaningful replies, it is important to remember that it is simply reconstituting existing language without any thought, free creation or metaphorical meaning

By **LANCE ASKILDSON**
Chicago Tribune

Lance Askildson is the provost and a tenured professor of linguistics at Chaminade University of Honolulu. He is a United Nations fellow with the U.N. Institute for Training & Research and a scholar of language learning technology.



of its own. This is the first and most fundamental reason that ChatGPT cannot ever truly replace professional writers—whether they be journalists, novelists or academics.

When audio recording technology became commonplace in newsgathering during the 20th century, some suggested that it would replace many journalists who would otherwise attend news conferences and other newsworthy events. What this suggestion failed to recognize is that journalists don't simply record what someone says; they interpret it and, most importantly, ask questions to understand or even challenge what they are hearing. Today, audio recording technology is an important tool for journalists but one wielded in service to its human users.

Similarly, the science of human learning has shown us that students learn not only through their abilities of reasoning, interpretation and creative expression—which ChatGPT lacks—but also with the help of teachers who engage them in a two-way dialogue accompanied by feedback that is adjusted to their understanding and overall needs. Here again, it is important to qualify what we mean by learning. In this context, learning denotes higher-order cognitive development beyond simple memorization of facts or information; it requires the development of conceptual understanding alongside an ability to analyze and evaluate the meaning and significance of the topic at hand.

Notably, ChatGPT cannot facilitate higher-order conceptual learning. Indeed, ChatGPT cannot engage a learner in a two-way dialogue—considering their state of mind and developmental needs—in order to provide personalized feedback and help them understand a new concept. Most fundamentally, ChatGPT cannot actually ask questions of its own at all. It simply does not have the agency or capability to do anything but provide derivative responses in the face of human-initiated prompts.

As large language AI models such as ChatGPT continue to evolve, it is critical that people, and our humanity, remain at the center of these technologies to ensure that they are employed in service to human growth, development and understanding.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

US territories will be key for achieving the goals of ‘America the Beautiful’

By TINA SABLAN, ANGELO VILLAGOMEZ, and RAIMUNDO ESPINOZA
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Around 100 frontline conservation advocates met in Washington, D.C. last week for meetings organized by the “America the Beautiful for All Coalition.” Participants came from across the U.S.—from Maine to the Marianas, Alaska to Puerto Rico, and everywhere in between.

The coalition is the largest and most diverse environmental coalition ever assembled for the most ambitious land and water conservation goal ever set in the United States. We are helping to connect, restore, and conserve 30% of U.S. lands and waters by 2030 by uniting land, freshwater, ocean, wildlife, community, recreation, and equity advocates across the nation. We are also working to ensure at least 40% of conservation investments are made in communities of color and frontline communities that have historically seen little to no investment in conservation and equitable access to nature.

Our coalition met with federal officials, including Senate staff, House committee staff, and senior leadership at the White House, Department of the Interior, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and Environmental Protection Agency. We also participated in panel discussions and presentations, and met briefly with Interior Secretary Deb Haaland.

We spoke about existing conservation measures taking place in Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and Puerto Rico. Our recommendations to these government leaders highlighted three important themes:

Prioritize US territories with conservation jobs, programs, and funding

The Biden administration’s “America the Beautiful” initiative should prioritize ocean conservation for U.S. territories, as they are home to the largest, most strongly protected marine areas and the highest levels of biodiversity in the United States. But the U.S. territories do not receive federal funding that is proportional to the conservation burden that they carry. In the Pacific, the first step toward actively managing our territories’ marine national monuments—designated in 2009 by the Bush administration—is to develop and publish final management plans so they can be implemented. In the U.S. Caribbean, capacity has been created for local stakeholders to lead conservation efforts but the local conservation community still does not receive the resources and support needed. Lack of funding will undermine the United States’ long term ability to protect ocean resources because capacity and funding are failing to reach frontline ocean conservation communities.

Restore conservation management and decision-making power to the territories

In particular, the federal government should engage the Puerto Rican, American Samoan, Chamorro, and other Micronesian peoples and territorial governments who are long-time stewards and owners of these resources. The U.S. should also explore further opportunities for the territories to co-manage the federally protected areas and other natural resources in territorial waters. This would increase access for several Indigenous and frontline

communities to lead and collaborate in natural resources management in line with the Biden administration’s Justice40 Initiative.

Engage with territorial governments to determine the unique ocean conservation needs of Indigenous citizens in the territories

The Biden administration recently announced a consultation policy to guide the federal government in engaging with Native Hawaiians. This policy should be extended to all Indigenous peoples in the territories. The federal government uses other models to engage with Native peoples in Alaska and the contiguous United States, and those should also be explored to determine the most appropriate way to engage with Indigenous peoples in the territories. Likewise, for Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, further mechanisms need to be explored to shift decision-making power to local communities in the U.S. Caribbean.

Staff and budget capacity, as well as equitable community engagement, are critical to achieve conservation impacts. The Biden administration’s conservation goals are laudable, but ocean conservation success in the U.S. can only be achieved when federal dollars make their way to Indigenous and frontline communities, and when those citizens have decision-making power and are active in the management of ocean resources.

Tina Sablan is a former member of the House of Representatives of the CNMI Legislature, and a member of the Friends of the Mariana Trench and the National Ocean Protection Coalition; her participation in the AtB for All meetings was supported by Green Latinos. Angelo Villagomez is with the Center for American Progress. Raimundo Espinoza is the founder and executive director of Conservacion ConCiencia.

Amata highlights Asian Pacific American Heritage Month

Editor’s Note: Delegate Uifa’atali Amata Radewagen (R-A. Samoa) issued the following statement yesterday to highlight Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, which is celebrated every May:

We have an ancient culture in American Samoa, and our heritage is very important to us here and for our people living throughout the United States. We respect our fa’a Samoa, and continue to support the ongoing efforts to ensure the preservation of the Samoan

language to keep it in use for generations to follow. We honor the historic strength and bravery of those ancient islanders who traveled our vast ocean, and built strong families on countless islands. We know that Pacific Islanders bring the best of their lasting values to the United States.

Asian Pacific American Heritage Month honors the cultures of countless U.S. communities originating in the continent of Asia and the vast Pacific region, and what they have meant to the nation. Generations of Asian Americans and Pacific Islander Americans have helped elevate this great country, and the cause

By UIFA’ATALI AMATA RADEWAGEN

Special to the Saipan Tribune



of freedom. While we’re greatly diverse, even among our own communities, we often share essential values that resonate in the U.S., where the ideals of freedom and opportunity are cherished.

May God bless American Samoa, the United States, and all our Asian American and Pacific American communities.

Florida revives an 1850s strategy to exclude Chinese immigrants

While our country celebrates Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, Gov. Ron DeSantis and the Florida legislature are busy resurrecting a long-dead form of anti-Asian discrimination.

Under the guise of national security, Florida lawmakers seem poised to crush Chinese immigrants’ dreams of homeownership. In April, the Florida Senate unanimously passed SB 264, and on Wednesday the Florida House rushed to pass its twin, HB 1355, purportedly to prohibit the Chinese government from buying real estate in Florida. This seems a reasonable enough goal. But by targeting “any member of the People’s Republic of China,” the bill could also wreak havoc on the lives of ordinary people. DeSantis has signaled he will sign the legislation.

According to the Asian Pacific American Bar Association, the bill’s “overly broad and vague” language could deny “anyone holding Chinese citizenship” the ability to buy real estate in Florida, “even if they are also U.S. citizens or lawful permanent residents of the United States.” All Florida buyers would be required to provide affidavits attesting they are not in the prohibited class this bill creates. No doubt this universal requirement will encourage real estate agents, sellers and the public to view Asian Americans with suspicion. The legislation would also force Chinese passport holders who already own a house in Florida to complete a special registration with the government.

Protesters have denounced the bill as discriminatory, likening it to Nazi-era laws requiring Jews to register their property with the German state. But in fact, we need not reach across the Atlantic for antecedents. Unfortunately, this is not the first time Chinese

homeownership has been under attack in the United States.

Whether or not they know it, Florida lawmakers are proposing to revive anti-Chinese laws from long ago. In 1859, for example, the Oregon Constitution declared that “no Chinaman” arriving after that year “shall ever hold any real estate or mining claim.” In 1879, Nevada land laws targeted nonresident “subjects of the Chinese empire” and, in 1908, Idaho barred “Chinese” and “Mongolians” from owning land or real property.

Some alien-land laws were more subtle in their intent, especially at the dawn of the 20th century. Because Asian immigrants were racially barred from naturalization until 1943, states could prohibit Asian homeownership by targeting unnaturalized foreigners. Gabriel J. Chin, professor of law at UC Davis, has found that 15 states targeted Asian immigrants in this roundabout way. Arizona, Arkansas, California, Delaware, Florida, Idaho, Kansas, Louisiana, Montana, New Mexico, Oregon, Texas, Utah, Washington and Wyoming all barred people ineligible for naturalization from owning land.

The impetus behind these earlier alien-land laws bears strong resemblance to the motivations driving the Florida bill today. The American public fretted that Asians – who were disparaged as too “industrious” and “inassimilable” – would outcompete white workers and fail to become loyal Americans. To quiet these racial fears, state lawmakers passed discriminatory legislation to dissuade Asian immigrants from making their homes in the United States.

These old alien-land laws held profound implications for the Asian community, as does the new bill. They encouraged dis-

crimination in the real estate market, drove segregation of Asian communities, and made it more difficult for Asian immigrants to rise out of poverty. And by labeling Asians as unwanted, lawmakers fueled anti-Asian prejudice more broadly.

The Asian American community fought previous alien-land laws, as they are fighting now. For decades, Chinese community leaders denounced the laws as discriminatory, but it was not until 1948 that Japanese plaintiffs successfully challenged California’s alien laws. In *Oyama vs. California*, the California Supreme Court acknowledged that the alien-land laws discriminated against Asian immigrants. But more important, at least in the eyes of the court, the laws also harmed their American-born, U.S. citizen children.

It is a sad truth that our Asian Pacific American heritage is bound up in this history of discrimination. Our communities in the U.S. formed amid a litany of local, state and federal laws that targeted Asian immigrants.






But community action is also part of our heritage and a critical part of our present. In January, the Chinese American community rallied against an anti-Chinese land bill in Texas, forcing the state legislature to significantly narrow the law. And in Florida, the fight is not over.

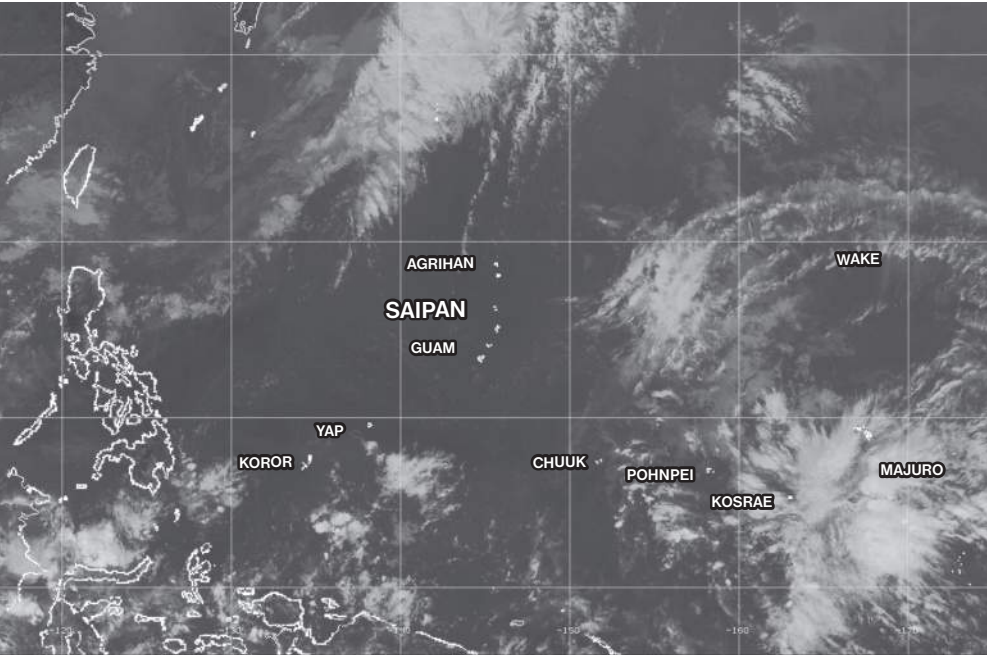
By BETH LEW-WILLIAMS

Los Angeles Times



The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY	
									
Scattered showers		Isolated showers. Partly sunny		Mostly sunny		Mostly sunny		Mostly sunny	
85°	78°	82°	78°	83°	78°	83°	78°	83°	78°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 7:13 AM, TUESDAY, MAY 9, 2023

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite and radar showing isolated showers across the Marianas. Buoys and latest altimetry passes indicating seas 4 to 5 feet. Gentle to moderate trade winds prevail.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA			▲▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Isolated Thunderstorms	87° / 78°	
Palau	Partly Cloudy	87° / 77°	
Yap	Mostly Sunny	86° / 80°	
Chuuk	Scattered Thunderstorms	86° / 79°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°	
Kosrae	Scattered Thunderstorms	86° / 81°	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:50 AM	6:36 PM
Thursday	5:49 AM	6:37 PM
Friday	5:49 AM	6:37 PM
Saturday	5:49 AM	6:37 PM
Sunday	5:48 AM	6:37 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	9:37 AM	11:17 PM
Thursday	-	10:42 AM	-
Friday	12:12 AM	11:45 AM	-
Saturday	1:02 AM	12:46 PM	-
Sunday	1:47 AM	1:44 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲▼ °F
Auckland	Scattered Thunderstorms/Wind	62° / 52°	
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	85° / 58°	
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	78° / 74°	
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	82° / 71°	
London	Rain	62° / 48°	
Los Angeles	Rain	62° / 48°	
Manila	Thunderstorms	91° / 81°	
Melbourne	Showers	59° / 44°	
Miami	Partly Cloudy	84° / 75°	
New York	Cloudy	67° / 50°	
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	76° / 55°	
Paris	Rain	60° / 48°	
Busan	Partly Cloudy	70° / 55°	
Rome	Rain	66° / 58°	
Salem	Cloudy	85° / 66°	
San Francisco	Cloudy	62° / 51°	
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	73° / 47°	
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	76° / 57°	
Washington, DC	Showers	61° / 48°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
5:16 AM	Low Tide	1.51	
9:32 AM	High Tide	1.90	
5:21 PM	Low Tide	-0.29	
-	-	-	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 30, 2023							
DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily	UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily
SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
UA824	7:25AM	9:55AM	1, 3, 5	UA825	9:25PM	1:50AM+1	2, 4, 7
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily	UA184	10:25PM	4:15AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau	UA189	10:25PM	6:10AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:15PM	9:10PM	Daily	PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
				UA192	11:50PM	5:35AM+1	2, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/703	4:20AM	10:35PM	1, 4, 5, 7 via ICN	UA184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam	UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau	UA184/174	11:50PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Guam
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily	7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
OZ626	4:20AM	7:55AM	1, 4, 5, 7	TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily	OZ625	9:25PM	2:55AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily	7C3405	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.							
FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022							
SAIPAN TO ROTA				ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily	3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/ Sat/Sun
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/ Sat/Sun	3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily	3103	16:30	17:00	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM				GUAM TO ROTA			
LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily	2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily	2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily	2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily	2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily	2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily	2111	17:30	17:45	Daily

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Business

US to propose new rules for airline cancellations, delays

By **DAVID KOENIG**
AP AIRLINES WRITER

President Joe Biden said Monday his administration will write new regulations that will require airlines to compensate air travelers and cover their meals and hotel rooms if they are stranded for reasons within the airline's control.

The compensation would be in addition to ticket refunds when the airline is at fault for a flight being canceled or significantly delayed. It would give consumers in the United States protections similar to those in the European Union.

"I know how frustrated many of you are with the service you get from your U.S. airlines," Biden said. "That's why our top priority has been to get American air travelers a better deal."

Biden added, "You deserve more than just getting the price of your ticket (refunded) — you deserve to be fully compensated. Your time matters, the impact on your life matters."

Biden's pledge comes just weeks before the start of the peak summer travel season,

when air travel could exceed pre-coronavirus pandemic records.

Officials at the Transportation Department, which will write the new rules, said they didn't have a precise date for when they expect to finish, but indicated they are working to quickly publish a notice that is required to get the process started.

As outlined at the White House by Biden and Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg, the rules would focus on cancellations and long delays caused by things such as mechanical issues with the plane or lack of a crew.

Airlines for America, which represents the biggest carriers, said in a statement that airlines have no incentive to delay or cancel flights. The trade group said more than half of cancellations in 2022 and 2023 have been caused by "extreme weather" or air traffic control outages.

"Carriers have taken responsibility for challenges within their control and continue working diligently to improve operational reliability," including hiring more workers and reducing their schedules, the group said.

Disney updates lawsuit against DeSantis to add new events

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—Disney on Monday amended its free speech lawsuit against Gov. Ron DeSantis to add recent developments in the tit-for-tat fight between the entertainment giant and the Florida governor, such as a new law granting the state unprecedented authority to inspect a monorail system at Disney World.

Disney's amended complaint filed in federal court in Tallahassee is updated with developments since the entertainment giant almost two weeks ago sued DeSantis and an oversight board for the Disney World governing district that is made up of members newly appointed by the governor.

The new complaint references legislation passed last week by Florida lawmakers that rescinds agreements that Disney and a previous oversight board consisting of Disney supporters made earlier this year, giving the entertainment giant control over design and construction at Disney World. The amended lawsuit also includes the new measure passed last week by Florida lawmakers giving the state authority to inspect Dis-

ney World's monorail system, which previously had been conducted in-house.

Disney is the only company impacted by the new measure and it "was precision-engineered to target Disney alone, just as Governor DeSantis intended and previewed," said the amended lawsuit.

The Disney lawsuit asks a federal judge to void the governor's takeover of the theme park district, as well as the oversight board's actions, on the grounds that they were violations of company's free speech rights.

Almost a week after Disney filed its lawsuit, members of the oversight board sued Disney last week in state court in an effort to maintain its control of construction and design at Disney World. It claimed the agreements between the company and previous board members "reek of a backroom deal."

Disney and DeSantis have been engaged in a tug-of-war for more than a year that has engulfed the governor in criticism as he prepares to launch an expected presidential bid in the coming weeks.

AQUA ZUMBA

at Aqua Resort Club



LEIGH GASES

M2 Fitness instructor Mary Grace Bautista, standing center, leads the first Aqua Zumba class at the Aqua Resort Club Saipan last Thursday.

By **LEIGH GASES**
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Get your swimsuits ready and let the rhythm of the water take control in the first ever Aqua Zumba led by M2 Fitness at the Aqua Resort Saipan.

Looking to spice things up with your workout routine or just looking for something fun to do and get your blood pumping? Make your way to the ARC poolside every Tuesday and Thursday night from 6pm to 7pm, or on Saturday from 5pm to 6pm.

M2 Fitness will help you condition and tone your muscles in the most fun and low-impact way possible with their Aqua Zuma/Aerobic exercise class, perfect for all ages.

Non M2 Fitness members fee is \$7 per class or \$54 a month, which is 12 classes per participant. For M2 Fitness members, the fee is \$5 per class or \$40 a month.

After you've got your 1-hour workout with the beautiful sunset backdrop, to the beat of the



LEIGH GASES

M2 Fitness' Aqua Zumba Class is held at the Aqua Resort Club Saipan every Tuesday and Thursday night from 6pm to 7pm and on Saturday from 5pm to 6pm.

music, and company of your friends and group, indulge in the delicious drinks at the pool bar and enjoy 50% off.

You can also swim until the pool closes at 9pm for just an extra \$5.

Mary Grace Bautista, the lead instructor for M2 Fitness, invites the community to try out the first ever Aqua Zumba.

"You can avail the special discount at the pool bar and plus, you will burn lots of calories and tone your muscles."

"So, stay strong, shape it up. Get Fit, don't quit," she said.

ARC's food and beverage manager Marie Ann Razon-Isip said ARC is always coming up with exciting events and promotions for their in-

house guests and residents.

She recommends participants to come in at least 30 minutes before each class so there's ample time to sign up and get ready at the poolside.

Participants should bring their swimwear and change of clothes, a towel, a water bottle, and aqua shoes (optional).

During the first Aqua Zumba class last Thursday, over 30 participants and some hotel guests came out to join in on the water workout. They were seen laughing and having fun as they followed the movements of Bautista who was on the pool deck for everyone to see.

For class details and more information, contact Zin Mary Grace Bautista or check out their Facebook page M2 Fitness and their Instagram @M2_strongzumbamovers, email m2fitnesszm@gmail.com or call/Whatsapp (670)287-4200.



LEIGH GASES

About 30 local and Aqua Resort Club hotel guests participated in the first Aqua Zumba Class last Thursday led by M2 Fitness instructor Mary Grace Bautista, far right.

Nation

Texas mall shooting victims include guard, young sisters

DALLAS (AP)—The people killed by a gunman at a mall near Dallas over the weekend include two elementary school-age sisters, a couple and their 3-year-old son, a young engineer and a security guard. The victims represent a multicultural cross-section of the metropolitan area's increasingly diverse suburbs.

Cox Elementary School students Daniela and Sofia Mendoza, grades four and two, were among those slain Saturday at Allen Premium Outlets, according to officials in the Wylie Independent School District. They were remembered as "the kindest, most thoughtful students with smiles that could light up any room," Principal Krista Wilson said in a letter to parents.

Also killed at the outdoor shopping center were three members of a Korean American family: a couple and one of their sons, who was 3. Another son was wounded and was still hospitalized, said Myoung-Joon Kim, head of mission at the Consulate of the Republic of Korea in Dallas. The parents were identified by the Texas Department of Public Safety as Kyu Song Cho, 37, and Cindy Cho, 35.

Andria Gaither, assistant manager at the mall's Tommy Hilfiger store, said she was devastated to learn the day after running for her life when shots rang out that one of the dead was Christian LaCour, a 20-year-old security guard who previously worked at the clothing store and often stopped in to chat.

Just a few nights earlier, she had called LaCour when a customer wanted in after hours. He came and asked the man to leave, and then offered



a security escort to her and two teenage employees.

"He wanted us to feel safe," Gaither said.

"I'm just in shock," she added. "He was very young, very sweet, came in all the time to visit with us."

Also killed was Aishwarya Thatikonda, 26, who was from India, held a graduate degree in construction management and worked as a civil engineer at the Dallas-area firm Perfect General Contractors.

She was "always prepared to give her very best," company founder Srinivas Chaluvadi said via email.

He said her parents live in Hyderabad, India, where her father is a judge.

"She came to the United

States with a dream to make a career, build a family, own a home and live forever in Dallas," Chaluvadi said.

Chaluvadi said Thatikonda would have turned 27 next week and she had become like like family: "She attended birthday parties at my home, we celebrated festivals together and we had family dinners."

An aunt of the Mendoza sisters said their mother was still hospitalized and asked for prayers.

"Please pray for our now broken family. The girls have left a void that nothing in the world could ever fill. Please pray for their mom, my sister, and her broken heart," wrote Anabel Del Angel in a fundraising post verified by Go-

FundMe. She also asked for prayers for the girls' father.

Jena Blue, who lives down the street from the Mendoza family, has been to their garage sales and seen Ilda Mendoza walk her two daughters to school.

"She just seemed like a mom just like me," Blue said.

For Halloween, she said the Mendozas would have a screen playing movies while another neighbor next door would serve snacks and drinks.

"Whenever you would round the corner right by their house, you'd get like a hot dog, a treat and chips. And watch a movie," Blue said.

DPS has identified the eighth victim as Elio Cumana-Rivas, 32.

Jennifer Seeley signs a cross that stands by others at a make-shift memorial by the mall where several people were killed several days earlier, Monday, May 8, 2023, in Allen, Texas.

Authorities are still trying to piece together what led to the attack, which ended when the suspected gunman—33-year-old Mauricio Garcia—was fatally shot by police.

Federal officials are looking into whether Garcia expressed an interest in white supremacist ideology, a law enforcement official told The Associated Press. The official cautioned that the investigation is in its early stages.

Federal agents have been reviewing social media accounts they believe Garcia used, as well as posts that expressed interest in white supremacist and neo-Nazi views, said the official, who could not discuss details of the investigation publicly and spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity.

Driver in deadly Texas crash charged with manslaughter

BROWNSVILLE, Texas

(AP)—An SUV driver who killed eight people when he slammed into a group waiting at a bus stop in Brownsville, Texas, was charged with manslaughter, police said Monday as investigators tried to determine if the crash was intentional.

Authorities believe driver George Alvarez, 34, of Brownsville, lost control after running a red light Sunday morning, and plowed into a crowd outside a migrant center in the city, which has long been an epicenter for migration across the U.S.-Mexico border.

Police Chief Felix Saucedo said Alvarez was charged with eight counts of manslaughter and 10 counts of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon. Officials are awaiting toxicology reports to determine whether Alvarez was intoxicated, Saucedo said, adding that there was no motive that he could discuss. Asked about reports from witnesses that Alvarez was cursing at them, Saucedo said there was nothing to confirm that yet.

The SUV ran a red light, lost control, flipped on its side and hit 18 people, Saucedo told reporters Monday morning. Six people died on the scene and 12 people were critically injured, he said. Officials have said the

death toll rose later.

Alvarez tried to flee, but was held down by several people on the scene, the police chief said. His bail was set at \$3.6 million.

Victims struck by the vehicle were waiting for the bus to return to downtown Brownsville after spending the night at the Bishop Enrique San Pedro Ozanam Center, said Sister Norma Pimentel, executive director of Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley. The center is the only overnight shelter in the city and manages the release of thousands of migrants from federal custody.

The victims were all male and several of them were from Venezuela, Saucedo said. The department is working with representatives of Venezuela and other countries. Law enforcement and shelter officials have not made public the identities of the victims killed.

Surveillance video from the Ozanam Center showed some of the victims sitting on the curb when they were hit at the bus stop.

"This SUV, a Range Rover, just ran the light that was about 100 feet (30 meters) away and just went through the people who were sitting there in the bus stop," said shelter director Victor Maldonado, who reviewed the surveillance video.

Debt options abound, but can Biden, McCarthy strike a deal?

WASHINGTON (AP)—The White House and Congress could strike a deal to raise the debt ceiling in exchange for budget cuts. Or they could agree to a stopgap measure to keep paying the nation's bills while negotiations continue. They also could let the negotiations unravel, sending the economy into chaos.

As President Joe Biden meets Tuesday with House Speaker Kevin McCarthy and other congressional leaders for the first time over the debt ceiling crisis, the options for easing out of the standoff are many.

But the political incentive for compromise is harder to come by. There's no easy endgame ahead of a June 1 dead-

line to raise the debt ceiling or risk defaulting on the nation's \$31 trillion in debt.

"It's Congress' constitutional duty to act to prevent default," White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said Monday. "That's what the president is going to be very clear about."

At Tuesday's first meeting, it's extremely unlikely there will be any quick resolution. Biden and the big four congressional leaders of the House and Senate will convene at the White House with neither side yet signaling a willingness to budge off its opening position.

Biden wants Congress to simply raise the debt limit without any strings attached, while Republicans led by Mc-

Carthy are insisting on budget cuts in exchange for any votes to allow more borrowing to pay the nation's bills.

More likely, Democratic president Biden and Republican House speaker McCarthy will at least be able to set aside their differences enough to launch a process for negotiations that could begin to form the contours of a deal to avert a true debt ceiling crisis.

But with tensions high and the outcome uncertain, some lawmakers are considering unprecedented proposals, even one that would allow Biden to bypass Congress, invoking his responsibilities under the 14th Amendment to simply raise the nation's debt limit on his own. That

would be certain to face a court challenge.

Though the endgame is uncertain, the political terrain is familiar for the White House and Congress. The once routine vote to raise the debt ceiling has increasingly been wielded as powerful political leverage to extract policy priorities that otherwise would not be likely to become law.

Republicans have put down their opening bid — a sweeping House-passed proposal that would slash \$4.8 trillion off the federal budget over a decade by rolling back spending to fiscal 2022 levels and capping future spending increases at 1% a year, resulting in steep cuts to programs and services.

Asia

China tells US to 'reflect deeply' downturn in ties

BEIJING (AP)—China's foreign minister told the U.S. ambassador on Monday that Washington is responsible for the downturn in relations between the two countries and must "reflect deeply" before ties can return to a healthy track, an official said.

Qin Gang's comments follow a suspension of serious dialogue on a range of issues between the world's largest economies, increasingly at odds over tariffs, attempts by Washington to deprive China of cutting-edge technology, and China's claims to self-governing Taiwan and large parts of the South and East China Seas.

China's Foreign Ministry quoted Qin as telling Ambassador Nicolas Burns that a "series of erroneous words and deeds by the U.S." since a meeting in November between U.S. President Joe Biden and Chinese leader Xi Jinping "have undermined the hard-won positive momentum of Sino-U.S. relations."

"The U.S. side should reflect deeply, meet China halfway, and propel China-U.S. relations out of the difficulties and back on the right track," Qin was quoted as saying.

The United States should "correct its understanding of China and return to rationality," Qin said, repeating his earlier accusation that the U.S. is attempting to suppress and contain China. Beijing routinely cites U.S. political and military support of Taiwan as



Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang speaks during the forum titled Chinese Modernization and the World held at The Grand Halls in Shanghai, on April 21, 2023.

infringing on its sovereignty.

Qin said ties had "grown icy" and the priority was to stabilize them "and avoid a downward spiral and unanticipated events."

The U.S. should stop "undermining China's sovereignty, security, and development interests," particularly through support of Taiwan's independent identity, Qin said.

China says Taiwan must come under its rule, by force if necessary, while the United States says the relationship between the sides must be resolved peaceably. U.S. law requires it to treat threats to Taiwan, including a military blockade, as a matter of "grave concern," though it remains ambiguous under what conditions U.S. forces could be dispatched to defend the island.

Despite the lack of formal diplomatic relations, the U.S.

is Taiwan's largest supplier of military hardware and diplomatic support, even while it continues to maintain relations with Beijing. Biden has been seen as going a step further by repeatedly saying that the U.S. would back Taiwan militarily, and America has been upgrading basing arrangements with the Philippines, located just south of Taiwan.

U.S.-China military contacts have been on hold for years, and China's top staff refused to answer a call from Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin after then-Speaker of the House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi visited Taiwan last year. China retaliated for the visit by staging a naval and air force blockade of Taiwan and cutting off channels of communication with the U.S. on issues from environmental protection to maritime security.

UN urges Afghanistan's Taliban to end floggings, executions

ISLAMABAD (AP)—A.U.N. report on Monday strongly criticized the Taliban for carrying out public executions, lashings and stonings since seizing power in Afghanistan, and called on the country's rulers to halt such practices.

In the past six months alone, 274 men, 58 women and two boys were publicly flogged in Afghanistan, according to a report by the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, or UNAMA.

"Corporal punishment is a violation of the Convention against Torture and must cease," said Fiona Frazer, the agency's human rights chief. She also called for an immediate moratorium on executions.

The Taliban foreign ministry said in response that Afghanistan's laws are determined in accordance with Islamic rules and guidelines,

and that an overwhelming majority of Afghans follow those rules.

"In the event of a conflict between international human rights law and Islamic law, the government is obliged to follow the Islamic law," the ministry said in a statement.

The Taliban began carrying out such punishments shortly after coming to power almost two years ago, despite initial promises of a more moderate rule than during their previous stint in power in the 1990s.

At the same time, they have gradually tightened restrictions on women, barring them from public spaces, such as parks and gyms, in line with their interpretation of Islamic law. The restrictions have triggered an international uproar, increasing the country's isolation at a time when its economy has collapsed — and wors-

ening a humanitarian crisis.

Monday's report on corporal punishment documents Taliban practices both before and after their return to power in August 2021, when they seized the capital of Kabul as U.S. and NATO forces withdrew after two decades of war.

The first public flogging following the Taliban takeover was reported in October 2021 in the northern Kapisa province, the report said. In that case, a woman and man convicted of adultery were publicly lashed 100 times each in the presence of religious scholars and local Taliban authorities, it said.

In December 2022, Taliban authorities executed an Afghan convicted of murder, the first public execution since they took power the report said.

World

WORLD BRIEFS

US to provide Ukraine \$1.2B in long-term security aid

WASHINGTON (AP)—The U.S. will provide \$1.2 billion more in long-term military aid to Ukraine to further bolster its air defenses as Russia continues to pound Ukraine with drones, rockets and surface-to-air missiles, U.S. officials said Monday. The aid package is expected to be announced on Tuesday and the money will be provided under the Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative. Unlike the U.S. equipment, weapons and ammunition that are more frequently sent to Ukraine from Pentagon stocks — so they can be delivered quickly — this money is to be spent over the coming months or even years to ensure Ukraine's future security needs. The assistance initiative will fund HAWK air-defense systems, air-defense munitions and drones for air defense. It will also buy artillery, rockets, satellite imagery assistance, and funding for ongoing maintenance and spare parts for a variety of systems, according to the officials. They spoke on condition of anonymity because the aid package has not yet been formally announced. Including this package, the U.S. has provided Ukraine nearly \$37 billion in military aid since Russia invaded in February 2022. The decision comes as Ukraine prepares to launch a spring offensive against Russian forces, with air defense a persistent issue.

retaliated for such targeted killings. In anticipation of Palestinian rocket attacks in response to the airstrikes, the Israeli military advised residents of communities within 25 miles (40 kilometers) of Gaza to stay close to designated bomb shelters. The military said the three targeted men had been responsible for recent rocket fire toward Israel. It identified them as Khalil Bahtini, the Islamic Jihad commander for northern Gaza Strip; Tareq Izzeldeen, the group's intermediary between its Gaza and West Bank members; and Jihad Ghanam, the secretary of the Islamic Jihad's military council. The Iran-backed Islamic Jihad, which is smaller than Gaza's ruling Hamas group, confirmed the three were among the dead. The Palestinian Health ministry said 12 people were killed in total, including the commanders, their wives, several of their children and others nearby.

Fire deep in gold mine in southern Peru kills 27 workers

LIMA, Peru (AP)—A fire broke out deep in a gold mine in southern Peru and killed at least 27 workers during an overnight shift, Peruvian authorities reported. The Yanaquihua mining company said in a statement that 175 workers had been safely evacuated after the accident, which happened late Friday or early Saturday. It said the 27 dead worked for a contractor that specializes in mining. Government officials said the cause of the fire was under investigation. Some news reports said preliminary investigations indicated an explosion might have been set off by a short circuit in a part of the mine about 100 meters (330 feet) below the surface. Relatives of the victims were brought by buses to the mine in Yanaquihua in the Arequipa region, where they were briefed by security agents. Some sat in front of posters at the entrance to the mine to wait for the bodies of their loved ones. Marcelina Aguirre said her husband was among the dead. She said he had told her there were risks at the mine. "We are very worried, very sad we are, to lose a husband, leaving two abandoned children," she said. The Public Ministry of Arequipa's Fiscal District said investigators were working to clarify what happened.

"During the investigation, the Prosecutor's Office will determine the cause of the tragic event and the responsibilities of those involved," its statement said.

Warming-stoked tides eating huge holes in Greenland glacier

Daily tides stoked with increasingly warmer water ate a hole taller than the Washington Monument at the bottom of one of Greenland's major glaciers in the last couple years, accelerating the retreat of a crucial part of the glacier, a new study found. And scientists worry that the phenomenon isn't limited to this one glacier, raising questions about previous projections of melting rates on the world's vulnerable ice sheets. The rapid melt seen in this study was in the far northwest of Greenland on Petermann Glacier. If it is happening in the rest of Greenland and the even bigger Antarctic ice sheet, then global ice loss and the sea level rise could jump as much as twice as fast as previously thought, according to the study in Monday's Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. "It's bad news," said study author Eric Rignot, a glaciologist at University of California Irvine. "We know the current projections are too conservative. We know that they have a really hard time matching the current record" of melt. He said this newly found consequence of tidal activity "could potentially double the projections" of global melt. The study looks at the all-important grounding line area of glaciers on ice sheets. That's the point where glaciers go from being on land to floating on water. Previous studies show it's also a key spot for rapid ice loss. At remote Petermann, where few people have been and there are no base camps, that grounding line zone is more than six-tenths of a mile (1 kilometer) wide and could be as much as 3.7 miles (6 kilometers) wide, the study said. Scientists used to think the daily tides weren't a big deal on melt. The snow added on top of the glacier compensated for the tides moving further in, said Rignot, the day before he left for an expedition to Petermann. But with an ocean that's warmer because of climate change the tides became "a very powerful mechanism," Rignot said. (AP)

Israel kills 3 from Islamic Jihad in targeted Gaza strikes

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP)—Israel killed three senior commanders of the militant Islamic Jihad group in targeted airstrikes early Tuesday, the military said. Palestinian health officials said 12 people were killed in all, including the commanders, their wives, several of their children and others nearby. The strikes hit the top floor of an apartment building in Gaza City and a house in the southern city of Rafah. The Palestinian Health ministry said 20 people were injured, and that ambulances were continuing to evacuate people from the targeted areas. Airstrikes continued in the early hours, targeting militant training sites. In the past, Palestinian militant groups in Gaza have

Good Housekeeping

Starting your own garden—however big or small



DREAMSTIME/TNS

Whether you own your home or rent an apartment, there is a way for you to begin growing vegetables.

By CATHY HOBBS
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

With prices at the grocery store still high, many people are turning to a more sustainable source of food: gardens.

Whether you own your home or rent an apartment, there is a way for you to begin growing vegetables.

Homeowners have a few options including starting a backyard garden in a plot or raised bed, creating large planters or growing indoors. If you're in an apartment, you may grow on a

balcony or start your plants inside in the best sun spots.

Here are some tips and tricks. Before you know it, you'll have pots full of lettuce, tomatoes, zucchini and other tasty things to cook.

Inside growing

If you need to start your garden inside, consider working with your windowsills or on furniture placed near windows. Try and find the spots with the most amount of sun. Some benefits to gardening inside include less

bugs, more access to harvest, easier time watering and more. The downfall? You might need to pick and choose which plants you really want due to space restrictions. Use the vertical space in your home or apartment with things such as wall planters or hanging planters suspended from shelves or the ceiling to help add more space.

Start small

If this is your first time creating a garden, start small. Don't take on a giant garden plot for your

first adventure. Local hardware stores sell self-watering planters that will hold a few plants. They're great for beginners who aren't ready to commit to a huge part of their yard yet. Some varieties of vegetables do fine in larger planters and don't need a ton of space. These are great for having around your patio.

Make raised beds

If you have the space in your yard, a raised bed is a great method for starting a garden. Local stores sell blocks

that help create corners and you can use planks of wood to make the bed any size you want. Raised beds help keep the plants contained, animals out, and make it more manageable. If you make it a taller bed, it's easier on your back as well. Just note the taller beds have a more limited lifespan due to how long the wood will hold.

Check the labels

Seed or plant labels will help you determine if it's a vegetable that will thrive in your garden. Different varieties of lettuce or tomatoes might require different levels of sunlight and water. They also might like to be planted in different times of the year. Some vegetables love the fall and winter while others need the early

spring sun and water.

Grow your own seedlings or find a swap

Before you plant seeds outside, most of them need to be a bit more mature to withstand the elements. Consider starting your seedlings in a sunny windowsill or in your basement under grow lights. If you don't have the time or patience for that, look for seedling swaps online in your community group. Many times people who grow seedlings don't have enough space in their garden for everything so they will give or trade seedlings with other gardeners. The other way is to purchase already mature, but young plants from your local nursery and get started with those.

Design Recipes: Modern country

By CATHY HOBBS
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

From slipcovers to painted floors and reclaimed wood, no clear style may define what some consider "country-inspired decor." But infusing country elements with a modern edge is becoming more popular in the design world. The result is furniture that is often handcrafted by artisans as well as decorative elements that are often vintage or even salvaged.

Here's our guide to bringing modern country style into your space.

Buying salvage

Salvage yards can often be a treasure trove of fabulous finds, from old doors to furniture, kitchen cabinets and more.

When looking to buy salvage, here are some tips that can assist in your search:

Go online. In many instances, a salvage yard will have photographs of their inventory online, so you can preselect before making a trip.

Compare pricing. Many businesses that sell salvage are reselling items that have been donated to them, while others are reselling items they purchased. You will likely snag a bargain either way, but it helps to know your bargaining power.

Visit on delivery day. Nothing beats an opportunity to secure new merchandise before it is snapped up.

Think out of the box

One of the main appeals of country-inspired furniture and

accessories is its old look and feel. When looking for decor opportunities, consider using old items in unusual or unexpected ways.

Looking for ideas? Consider these tips. Vintage doorknobs

Old doorknobs come in all different shapes and sizes and can be used for everything from door pulls to creating an interesting wall feature in which you can hang floral arrangements or dried herbs.

Mason jars

Mason jars remain purposeful and useful in a number of different ways around the home, and they can also be repurposed and used in home decor. Some ideas include: painting them muted colors, rubbing

them with a sanding block to make them appear old, wrapping portions of the jar with twine or filling with moss and topping with a succulent, using the mason jar as more of a vase.

Dried herbs

Dried flowers aren't the only nature-inspired option for those looking for country-inspired decor. Other ideas include hanging dried herbs or lavender. The look is organic and attractive with long-lasting fragrance.

Succulents

Succulents are not only hardy but versatile. Try placing succulents on a small bed of stones or embedded in moss for a modern look. Succulents look especially attractive when paired with natural elements such as wood and branches.



HANDOUT/TNS

Wood elements such as tables and benches are used to create a modern country vibe.

Life & Style

AP wins public service, photo Pulitzers for Ukraine coverage

NEW YORK (AP)—The Associated Press won two Pulitzer Prizes on Monday for its coverage of the war in Ukraine, earning recognition for its breaking news photography of the Russian invasion, as well as the prestigious public service award for its startling—and exclusive—dispatches from the besieged port city of Mariupol.

AP journalists were also finalists in two Pulitzer categories, for breaking news photography of Sri Lanka's political crisis and for feature photography of the Ukraine war's impact on older people.

For the public service award, the Pulitzer judges acknowledged AP—which had the only international journalists in Mariupol for nearly three weeks—for capturing notable images of an injured, pregnant woman being rushed to medical help and Russia firing on civilian targets.

AP's Mariupol team was made up of videojournalist Mstyslav Chernov, photographer Evgeniy Maloletka and video producer Vasilisa Stepanenko on the ground in the besieged city, and reporter Lori Hinnant in Paris.

Other winners of two Pulitzers apiece were AL.com, of Birmingham, Alabama, the Los Angeles Times, The New York Times and The Washington Post.

The Pulitzers honor the best in journalism from 2022 in 15 categories, as well as eight arts categories focused on books, music and theater. The public service winner receives a gold medal. All other winners receive \$15,000.

Kyle Whitmire, of AL.com, won a commentary award for

“measured and persuasive columns” about Alabama's Confederate heritage and a legacy of racism.

His Alabama colleagues John Archibald, Ashley Remkus, Ramsey Archibald and Challen Stephens won a local reporting award for a probe into a local police force.

It was a second Pulitzer win for John Archibald, who previously won in 2018 for commentary, and the first for his son, Ramsey Archibald. Remkus and Stephens were also picking up their second Pulitzers, after being part of a team that won in 2021 for national reporting.

“The recognition is tremendous and we're grateful our work is being honored on the national stage like this,” Kelly Ann Scott, editor in chief and vice president of Alabama Media Group, said in a statement. “This is local journalism at its best – and local journalism is the heartbeat of this country's journalism in general.”

The New York Times was honored with an international reporting award for its coverage of Russian killings in the Ukrainian town of Bucha. Pulitzers were also given for work surrounding the U.S. Supreme Court's decision overturning the Roe v. Wade abortion standard, the government's policy of child separation at the border, and welfare spending in Mississippi.

The Washington Post's Caroline Kitchener won for “unflinching reporting” on the consequences of the abortion decision, including the story of a Texas teenager who gave birth to twins after new restrictions denied her an abortion. The Post's Eli Saslow



Bodies are placed into a mass grave on the outskirts of Mariupol, Ukraine, March 9, 2022.

won for feature writing.

The Los Angeles Times won for breaking news for its stories revealing a secretly recorded conversation with city officials making racist comments. The newspaper's Christina House won for feature photography, for her images of a 22-year-old pregnant woman living on the street.

The AP coverage of Mariupol, according to the Ukrainian city's deputy mayor, focused the world's attention on the devastation there and ultimately pressured Russians to open an evacuation route, saving thousands of civilian lives.

“They told the world of the human toll of this war in its earliest days,” AP Executive Editor Julie Pace said during a staff Zoom celebration. “They served as a counterweight against Rus-



Ukrainian emergency employees and police officers evacuate injured pregnant woman Iryna Kalinina, 32, from a maternity hospital that was damaged by a Russian airstrike in Mariupol, Ukraine, March 9, 2022.

sian disinformation, and they helped open up a humanitarian corridor out of Mariupol with the power of their work.”

The AP team that won for breaking news photography included Maloletka, who was part of the Mariupol coverage, along

with Bernat Armangue, Emilio Morenatti, Felipe Dana, Nari-man El-Mofty, Rodrigo Abd and Vadim Ghirda.

Revelations of sexual abuse sow shock and uncertainty

DEAR ABBY: I recently was told that my late father-in-law was a serial child abuser who molested his daughter and at least two of his grandchildren. My husband loved and deeply respected his parents. Should I tell my husband this information? Should I ask my grown son if he was also molested as his cousins were? I don't want to “rock the boat,” but I want to do what is best for my son, and I'm not used to keeping things from my husband.

WISH I DIDN'T KNOW

■■■■■

DEAR WISH: Who gave you this information, and why? Was it a credible source? Were your late father-in-law's alleged crimes reported to the authorities? If you trust your source, by all means, talk to your son and ask if his grandfather ever did anything that made him uncomfortable. Why would you keep this from your husband? Tell him what you were told and by whom.

■■■■■

DEAR ABBY: My brother “Gene” passed away a few months ago. He had been in and out of the hospital for most of 2022. He had four children, and while he wasn't close to them, he tried to have a relationship with them. One child lived in the same town but wanted nothing to do with him. When they found out Gene was dying, they all wanted to know what they were getting. Gene's last wish was that they not be informed

about his death. I felt I owed it to him to honor his wishes.

Prior to his passing, his oldest child was saying what a horrible father he was. Now my brother is gone, and she's mad she “didn't get to grieve” and posting nasty things about me on social media. I won't stoop to her level and respond. Gene quit talking to all of them four months before his death. Was I wrong for not telling them?

HONORING MY BROTHER

■■■■■

DEAR HONORING: No, you were not wrong. You honored your brother's wishes. It is sad that his children didn't have a chance to mend fences with their father before his passing, but they will have the rest of their lives to grieve -- if you can call frustration over not inheriting anything “grieving.”

■■■■■

DEAR ABBY: I'm bipolar, and my best forever friend is in her third physically abusive relationship. After he moved in with her I told her I had to end the friendship because he also has mental health issues and carries a gun. I'm afraid for her safety.

Because I survived and left my own abuser, I take my safety seriously. Another friend says I should be there for her. I did tell her police officer granddaughter about the abuse. Should I stay or should I go?

FRIENDSHIP CHALLENGE IN VIRGINIA

DEAR ABBY

BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



DEAR FRIENDSHIP CHALLENGE: Do not allow anyone to guilt you into putting yourself into a dangerous situation. Assure your friend that once this risky romance ends, if she's still in one piece, you will be there for her. You did the right thing by alerting your friend's granddaughter that her grandmother might be in danger. The woman may need counseling so she won't continue getting into abusive relationships.

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in “The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It.” To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

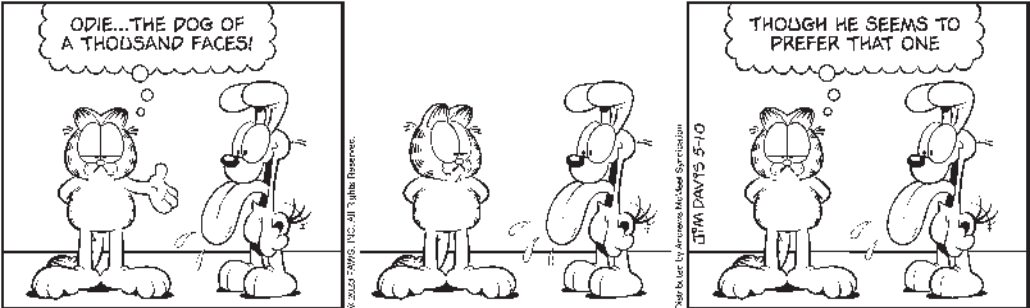
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



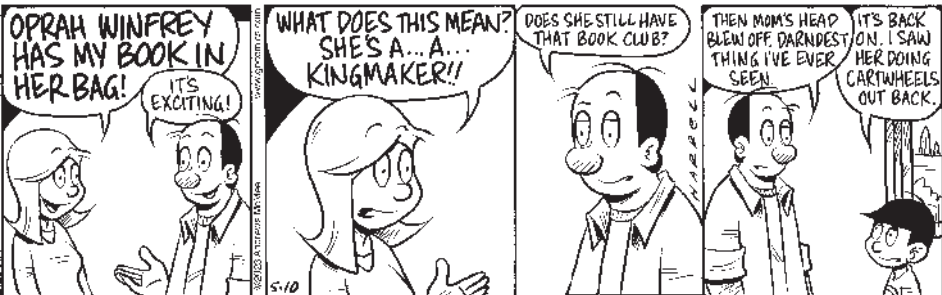
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



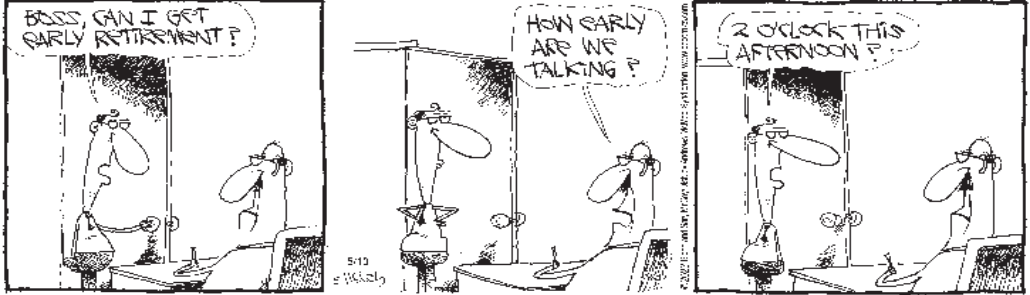
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Avocado dip, for short
5 Dept. store inventory
8 Vacationing
12 Goya's duchess
13 Lucy of "Kill Bill"
14 Everly Brothers' "Let It Be"
15 Where cash might be stored
17 Cabbage salad
18 Prepares to pray
19 Resides
21 Purse
22 Nights of yore
23 Gold and damp
26 Mom's mate
28 Meager
31 Worry
33 Drench
35 Aachen article
36 Precious ones
38 Comedian Margaret

DOWN

1 Stare stupidly
2 — Bator
3 Com-potent
4 Novelist Carr
5 Scottish city
6 "What's the —?"
7 Soft leather
8 Lack
9 "Nicely put!"
10 Lawyer Clooney
11 Ever-green trees
16 Open-handed hit
20 Director Craven
23 "May-berry —"
24 Verb for you
25 Achilles' heel
27 Chest muscle
29 Compass dir.
30 Saw-buck
32 Long locks
34 Math-ematical proposition
37 Six, in Sicily
39 Galley supply
42 Namia's creator
44 Early Mongolian
45 Corp. kingpins
46 SFPD alerts
48 The Big Easy acronym
49 Wide smile
50 Ogled
53 In the manner of

Solution time: 23 mins.

Yesterday's answer 5-10

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Missy Franklin, 28; Kenan Thompson, 45; Bono, 63; Donovan, 77.

Happy Birthday: Do your best to fulfill your dreams, act aggressively to ensure you are seen and heard by those who can benefit from the outcome, and make a lasting impression on those you care about most. Your destiny depends on your willingness to incorporate compassion and understanding with your will to do what's right and best for everyone. Focus on what's important. Your numbers are 6, 13, 19, 24, 32, 39, 46.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You will be held responsible for any deviation from the truth. Don't try to impress with words. Let your actions be your voice, and you will maintain credibility and receive the accolades you deserve. Take care of your health and emotional well-being. ★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Consider what you can do to make life better. Share your insight with those able to provide you with the momentum to turn your plans into a reality. You have plenty to gain by choosing the proper people to back you. ★★★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Let experience guide you. Reach out and help someone, and you'll find your niche. Explore the possibilities, but don't expand too fast. Take your time and learn the intricate details that make up what you are trying to achieve, and everything else will follow. ★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Showing everyone how passionate you are about your beliefs and the things you enjoy doing most will leave a lasting impression. Focus on

the things that are important to you. If you love someone, let them know how much. ★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Explore the possibilities, and you'll discover new ways to use old skills. Branching out will give you the momentum you need to overcome anyone trying to throw you off. Trust in yourself and your ability to get things done your way. ★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): A change will supercharge you, and a new experience will inspire you to make positive adjustments to how you do things. A romantic gesture will encourage a commitment and put your plans in motion. Romance and personal gain are favored. ★★★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You're better off doing your own thing to avoid backlash. Someone eager to start a fight will bring up emotional issues or overreact to something you say. Choose a healthy lifestyle instead of overindulgence. Make fitness a priority. ★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Evaluate what's happening and how you can handle personal matters without overreacting. Use your imagination to find a way to keep the peace and persuade someone opposing you to see things differently. Choose a positive attitude over stubborn resistance. Romance is encouraged. ★★★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Keep your money and possessions safe. You'll attract someone you shouldn't trust. Question anything that doesn't make sense to you. Avoid joint expenses and endeavors. Expand your interests and your circle of friends, but not your debt. ★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Choose your words carefully and execute what you want to say or do with honesty, compassion and understanding. Practice peace and love instead of letting your anger or disappointment take over. How you treat others will contribute to how others respond. ★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Take the path of least resistance and strive to make yourself and those around you happy. Offer others the same freedom you want for yourself. Don't give in to demands or give ultimatums. Concentrate on how to make your money grow. ★★★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Engage in self-improvement projects that contribute to personal growth, and you'll figure out how to increase your earning potential. Start a new project that adds comfort and convenience to your everyday life and eases tension. Romance is on the rise. ★★★★★

Birthday Baby: You are friendly, informative and optimistic. You are resourceful and practical.

★: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ★★: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ★★★: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ★★★★★: Aim high; start new projects. ★★★★★: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



Lakers rally past Warriors 104-101, take 3-1 series lead



LOS ANGELES (AP)—Lonnie Walker began the season as a starter for the Los Angeles Lakers, though got injured and slipped all the way out of their rotation after they transformed their roster at the trade deadline.

Walker didn't sulk or complain. He cheered from the bench. Worked even harder in practice. Waited for his chance to shine.

And when it arrived, the unsung pro with inextinguishable confidence outshot Stephen Curry in the fourth quarter of a playoff win that put his Lakers on the brink of an unlikely trip to the Western Conference finals.

"(It's) the greatest feeling you could ever imagine," Walker said with a smile. "As a kid, this is something I've been dreaming of."

Walker scored all of his 15 points in a phenomenal fourth quarter, and the Lakers rallied late to take a 3-1 second-round series lead with a 104-101 victory over the Golden State Warriors in Game 4 on Monday night.

LeBron James scored 27 points and Anthony Davis had 23 points and 15 rebounds for the seventh-seeded Lakers, who moved one win away from knocking off the champions with their eighth consecutive home victory since March.

Los Angeles overcame Curry's third career postseason triple-double down the stretch largely because of Walker, who has made a seismic impact in returning to the Lakers' rotation in this series. He went 6 for 9 in the fourth quarter, starting with a 3-pointer on the opening possession of the period to cut Golden State's lead to four points.

After sitting out Game 1, Walker contributed nine points in Game 2 and 12 more in

Game 3. His emergence in this series is a shocker to most, but not to Walker or his teammates.

"I'm a scorer mentality first," Walker said. "I've got a lot of confidence in myself. I know what I'm capable of, and after a lot of sacrifice and a lot of time in the gym, the fruition finally came today."

Walker eventually hit the go-ahead jumper with 1:53 to play. Curry's layup with 1:05 left trimmed the Lakers' lead to one point, but Curry missed a long jumper and a 3-point attempt on Golden State's next possession before Walker made two free throws with 15 seconds left, and Los Angeles got one last defensive stop to seal it.

"We don't win this game tonight without Lonnie Walker, that's for sure," James said. "As hard as this game was, it's going to be even harder. We understand that. We know that."

Game 5 is Wednesday night in San Francisco.

Curry had 31 points, 10 rebounds and 14 assists in his 13th career triple-double for the sixth-seeded Warriors, who will have to overcome a 3-1 series deficit for only the second time in franchise history to continue their NBA title defense. Golden State also did it in the 2016 Western Conference finals.

The Warriors led by 12 late in the third quarter, but the Lakers chased down the champs and finished them with Walker leading the way in front of even James and Davis, who joined the chorus of congratulations after the buzzer.

"The kid is a beautiful kid," Lakers coach Darvin Ham said. "He fell out of the rotation through no fault of his own, but he remained professional. He remained high-spirited, positive, and really kept working on his game every day, especially in these playoffs. When your mind is in the right place, your body follows."

Gary Payton II scored a sea-



Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry, left, shoots as Los Angeles Lakers forward Anthony Davis defends during the first half in Game 4 of an NBA basketball Western Conference semifinal Monday, May 8, 2023, in Los Angeles.

son-high 15 points in his first start of the season for Golden State, but Klay Thompson had his second straight quiet game in Los Angeles, scoring nine points in 41 minutes. Andrew Wiggins added 17 points for the Warriors, who made just 25 combined 3-pointers in their two games in Los Angeles after making 21 apiece in the first two games in San Francisco.

Golden State coach Steve Kerr switched to a three-guard starting lineup to affect the Los Angeles defense that held the Warriors to 97 points in Game 3, and the changes largely worked: Davis, who blocked 11 shots in the first three games, wasn't able to protect the rim with the same ferocity when his defensive matchups required him to go out to the perimeter, and the Warriors capitalized with 52 points in the paint.

The Lakers compensated:

They made all 20 of their free throws, and Austin Reaves added 21 points.

But they won with a gritty, timely effort by Walker, who picked up the Lakers' slack when D'Angelo Russell scored just four points on 1-for-10 shooting after a strong performance in Game 3.

Curry secured the 13th triple-double of his career early in the fourth quarter, but he missed nine of 10 3-point attempts spanning three quarters. The most prolific 3-point shooter in NBA history finished 3 for 14 from distance.

HEAT 109, KNICKS 101

MIAMI (AP)—The lead was shaky at times. The shooting went cold. The building got tense. There were moments when the Miami Heat looked like they were about to get themselves into trouble.

And they found a way—again.

The unpredictable ride of the eighth-seeded Heat continues, with Miami on the brink of yet another trip to the Eastern Conference finals. Jimmy Butler had 27 points and 10 assists, Bam Adebayo finished with 23 points and 13 rebounds and the Heat topped the New York Knicks 109-101 on Monday night.

"It was great that we were able to hold home court," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "But we know we have a task in New York."

They'll take a 3-1 lead into Madison Square Garden for Game 5 on Wednesday night, one win from wrapping up this East semifinal matchup and returning to the conference finals for the third time in four years.

"We've got a job to do," Butler said, "and I think we're very capable."

Max Strus scored 16 points, Kyle Lowry added 15 and Caleb Martin had 10 for the Heat. Miami became only the fourth No. 8 seed in this NBA playoff format — now in its 40th season — to win at least seven games. The 1999 Knicks won 12 on their way to the NBA Finals, while Memphis won seven in 2011 and Philadelphia won seven in 2012.

Jalen Brunson finished with 32 points and 11 assists for fifth-seeded New York, while RJ Barrett had 24 points and Julius Randle scored 20 for the Knicks before fouling out with about three minutes left.

"You've got to win four to win a series," Knicks coach Tom Thibodeau said. "So, all we're thinking about is win the next game. Go quarter by quarter. Win the first quarter,

win the second quarter, win the third, win the fourth. And then the next day we'll think about the next day."

Miami missed 12 of its first 15 shots of the fourth quarter, but the Knicks didn't take full advantage — trimming only three points off the Heat lead in that span. It was nine entering the fourth, and a pair of free throws by Brunson with 4:40 left got New York within 99-93.

But a slam by Martin breathed some life into an antsy building, and the roars got a bit louder about a minute later. With the Knicks down seven, Randle went into the lane but Strus beat him to the spot, drawing contact that became the New York star's sixth foul with 3:08 left. The Heat held control the rest of the way.

"They got to offensive rebounds, to loose balls, they've got some tough guys that get respect," Barrett said. "I give them credit. They're working hard. They've got guys falling every possession, they're getting calls, they're getting rebounds. They're playing hard. We played hard as well."

The Knicks never led in Game 3, then held the lead twice in Game 4.

Barely.

They had a pair of one-point leads in the opening quarter, for a combined 33 seconds, with Miami erasing the deficits with immediate baskets on its next possession.

But unlike Game 3, when Miami's lead was double digits for nearly the entirety of the final three quarters, this one remained in some doubt much of the way.

Jokic fined \$25K by NBA for making contact with Suns owner

DENVER (AP)—Denver Nuggets center Nikola Jokic was fined \$25,000 by the league Monday for making improper contact in the stands with Phoenix Suns owner Mat Ishbia.

No suspension, though. The two-time NBA MVP is all set for Game 5 on Tuesday night in Denver, with the second-round series tied at 2-2.

It was nearly the outcome Ishbia was hoping for in a series where the home team has won every game.

On his Twitter account Monday, Ishbia praised his team's performance and urged no further disciplinary action for Jokic.

"Great win for the Suns last night in an amazing series

so far!" Ishbia posted. "That should be and is the only story. Suspending or fining anyone over last night's incident would not be right. I have a lot of respect for Jokic and don't want to see anything like that. Excited for game 5! Go Suns!"

Jokic was assessed a technical foul in the second quarter of Game 4 on Sunday night when the big man tried to snatch the ball back from Ishbia, who was sitting courtside, and hit Ishbia with an elbow.

The situation set social media ablaze and overshadowed a game in which the Suns won 129-124. One of the topics up for debate was whether it was a flop by Ishbia, a former walk-on basketball player at

Michigan State, or excessive contact from Jokic.

"I was hoping they'd give him a flopping charge," Nuggets coach Michael Malone said Monday about Ishbia. "That would probably be the only fine I could imagine, but I have no idea."

Suns standout Kevin Durant figured the incident and resulting fine would be a story, but was glad it's been resolved.

"None of that can get in the way," Durant said after practice Monday night at Ball Arena. "We can just focus on basketball."

The mini-fracas began when Suns guard Josh Okogie crashed into the seats while trying to save a loose ball. He

landed in a group of fans on the baseline that included Ishbia, who held on to the basketball.

Jokic was trying to get the ball quickly — apparently so the Nuggets could start getting into their offensive possession — when he attempted to grab the ball away from Ishbia. The ball flew backward into the crowd, and then Ishbia was knocked backward by Jokic's elbow.

Jokic defended his actions after a game in which he had 53 points and 11 assists.

"The fan put the hand on me first," Jokic explained. "I thought the league was supposed to protect us. Maybe I am wrong. I know who he is, but he is a fan. Isn't he?"

Keller's CG helps Pirates top Rockies, end 7-game skid



PITTSBURGH
(AP) —
M i t c h

Keller pitched his first career complete game and Rodolfo Castro hit a two-run homer as the Pittsburgh Pirates snapped their seven-game losing streak with a 2-0 victory over the Colorado Rockies on Monday night.

Keller (4-1) shut out the Rockies on four hits while striking out eight and walking one in a game that took just 1 hour, 55 minutes. The fifth-year veteran had never pitched into the eighth inning before.

"It's really special, a really cool thing, especially to do it with these guys because we've been struggling," Keller said. "We used the fastball a lot — two-seam, four-seam, cutter — and they were working. Other than that, it was just going out and executing and letting the defense work. It was just an all-around great effort."

It was the first nine-inning shutout by a Pirates pitcher since Jameson Taillon on April 8, 2018, against Cincinnati and just the eighth since 2000. Keller threw 77 of his 103 pitches for strikes.

Pirates catcher Austin Hedges was impressed by how effortless Keller made things look.

"I crouched for, like, 12 minutes today," Hedges said with a smile. "My legs feel amazing. I told Mitch, 'Dude, it's like 8:30 right now.'"

Castro's homer off Kyle Freeland in the seventh carried into the bullpens in center field and broke a scoreless tie.

Freeland (3-4) also had a strong start, giving up two runs and seven hits in seven innings with four strikeouts and three walks. The left-hander got some defensive help as catcher Elias Díaz twice completed inning-ending double plays by throwing out runners attempting to steal.

"(Keller) was throwing really well and Kyle was, too," Colorado manager Bud Black said. "What a great pitchers' duel."

The last Rockies catcher to complete two double plays with caught stealings in one game was Yorvit Torrealba in 2006 against the Los Angeles Dodgers.

"I can't thank him enough," Freeland said of Díaz. "That's top-tier defense right there. He's always working his butt off behind the plate for me."

On April 17, Freeland was tagged for nine runs over 2 2/3 innings in a loss to the Pirates at Coors Field. Pittsburgh swept that three-game series, outscoring the Rockies 33-9.

Ke'Bryan Hayes had two hits in his third straight multi-hit game for the Pirates, who hold a slim but surprising lead in the NL Central.

The Rockies got two hits from Kris Bryant. Colorado, last in the NL West, had



AP
Pittsburgh Pirates starting pitcher Mitch Keller delivers during the second inning of a baseball game against the Colorado Rockies in Pittsburgh, Monday, May 8, 2023.

won six of seven.

Connor Joe led off the seventh with a single for Pittsburgh. Castro followed with his fourth home run of the season.

"I'm just grateful to be the guy who could help the team win after a rough seven games," Castro said.

RANGERS 2, MARINERS 1

SEATTLE (AP)—Marcus Semien ended Logan Gilbert's bid for a perfect game with a leadoff single in a two-run seventh inning, and Jon Gray pitched Texas past Seattle.

Semien scored the tying run on Josh Jung's bases-loaded sacrifice fly, and Jonah Heim chased Gilbert (1-2) with a two-out RBI single.

Ty France homered in the first off Gray (2-1), who gave up four hits over seven innings. He struck out eight and walked none as Texas won its third straight.

Gilbert mowed down the Rangers for six innings. He struck out seven consecutive batters from the second through the fourth, matching a franchise record held by Mark Langston (1984) and teammate Luis Castillo (2022). He needed only 72 pitches to retire his first 18 hitters, fanning nine. But he ran into trouble in the seventh.

YANKEES 7, ATHLETICS 2

NEW YORK (AP)—Aaron Hicks broke out of his season-long slump with a two-run homer and New York went deep four times in a win over Oakland.

Gleyber Torres hit a tiebreaking solo drive in the sixth inning against former Yankees lefty JP Sears (0-3). Oswaldo Cabrera and DJ LeMahieu launched two-run shots off Sears as New York (19-17) avoiding falling back to .500 for the second time in a week.

The Yankees won for the

fourth time in 10 games without slugger Aaron Judge, who is expected back Tuesday from a stint on the injured list due to a strained right hip.

Nestor Cortes rebounded from his worst start with the Yankees and allowed two runs on six hits in five-plus innings. Ron Marinaccio (2-1) earned the win in relief.

Sears allowed five runs and six hits in 5 1/3 innings as the major league-worst A's dropped to 8-28 overall.

TIGERS 6, GUARDIANS 2

CLEVELAND (AP)—Joey Wentz settled down after allowing a double and single to start the game on the way to his first win, and Andy Ibañez homered and scored three runs in Detroit's win over struggling Cleveland.

After allowing the opening hits, Wentz (1-3) then retired 13 of 14 before giving up a pair of walks in the sixth. He got two outs and was pulled for Will Vest, who worked out of the jam. Jason Foley, Chasen Shreve and Alex Lange completed the combined six-hitter.

Ibañez connected for his first homer for Detroit and Riley Greene drove in two runs as the Tigers won for the sixth time in seven games.

José Ramírez homered as the Guardians continued to scuffle offensively. Rookie Tanner Bibee (1-1) for three runs and five hits in the third inning and didn't survive the fourth.

RAYS 3, ORIOLES 0

BALTIMORE (AP)—Shane Bieber worked six innings and became this season's first seven-game winner, Josh Lowe and Luke Raley homered and Tampa Bay topped Baltimore in a matchup of the teams with the best record in the American League.

The Rays extended their AL East lead to 6 1/2 games. McClanahan (7-0) allowed four hits and four walks and struck out seven.

Kyle Gibson (4-2) pitched well in defeat, allowing two runs in six-plus innings. Lowe hit a solo shot leading off the second and Raley added one in the ninth. Wander Franco hit a sacrifice fly in the seventh.

Colin Poche and Kevin Kelly followed McClanahan for Tampa Bay, and Jason Adam struck out three in the ninth for his fourth save.

The Orioles lost a series opener for the first time this season after winning their first 11. It's Baltimore's first three-game losing streak of the season.

BREWERS 9, DODGERS 3

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Joey Wiemer and Willy Adames hit three-run homers to back Freddy Peralta's strong pitching and Milwaukee defeated Los Angeles for its second straight win after six straight losses.

Wiemer went 2 of 3 with four RBIs — his first since April 29 — while homering off Tony Gonsolin (0-1) with two outs in the fifth. He added an RBI double against Phil Bickford in the seventh.

Christian Yelich added a two-run single in the win. Peralta (4-2) struck out five and allowed just three hits, one run and two walks in six innings for his third straight quality start.

Chris Taylor hit a two-run homer in the ninth for the Dodgers, who lost for just the second time in 10 games.

ROYALS 12, WHITESOX 5

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—MJ Melendez homered and drove in four runs, Nick Pratto had a three-run double during an eight-run sixth inning, and

Kansas City beat Chicago and won consecutive home games for the first time this season.

Melendez hit a 431-foot, two-run shot in the fourth against Dylan Cease and then had a two-run single in the sixth as the Royals turned a 4-4 game into a rout. Kansas City had its highest-scoring game this season.

Jose Cuas (2-0) relieved Zack Greinke with two out in the sixth and retired the only batter he faced.

Cease (2-2) gave up seven runs on nine hits in five-plus innings. Gavin Sheets homered for the White Sox and Andrew Vaughn had a two-run double.

The Royals' Jackie Bradley Jr. finished 3 for 4 with two runs scored and a two-RBI double.

CARDINALS 3, CUBS 1

CHICAGO (AP)—Willson Contreras had two hits and two RBIs in his return to Wrigley Field, including a tiebreaking double, and St. Louis beat Chicago.

St. Louis also got a strong effort from its bullpen in its second straight win after an eight-game losing streak. Génesis Cabrera (1-0), Jordan Hicks and Ryan Helsley combined for 4 2/3 innings of one-hit ball in relief of Miles Mikolas. Helsley got his fourth save.

It was the Cardinals' first win in 12 series openers. The streak of 11 straight losses in such games to begin the season was a franchise record.

Dansby Swanson hit an RBI double in the fifth to account for Chicago's only run. Marcus Stroman (2-3) pitched six innings of two-run ball as the Cubs lost for the fifth time in seven games.

DIAMONDBACKS 5, MARLINS 2

PHOENIX (AP)—Christian Walker crushed a 459-foot solo

homer and added an RBI double and Zac Gallen threw seven quality innings as Arizona beat Miami for its fourth win in five games.

Walker got the scoring started in the fourth with a double into the left-center gap that scored Emmanuel Rivera. He followed that up with a his ninth homer of the season.

Arizona scored two more times in the sixth on RBI singles from Gabriel Moreno and Ketel Marte. Moreno had a three-hit night, including a double.

Gallen (5-1) gave up one run on five hits while striking out seven.

Braxton Garrett (1-2) pitched well until getting roughed up in the sixth. He threw 5 1/3 innings, giving up four runs on six hits while striking out six as the Marlins lost for the sixth time in seven games.

NATIONALS 5, GIANTS 1

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Rookie Jake Irvin struck out five in 6 1/3 innings and earned his first career victory, leading Washington past San Francisco.

Making his second career start and first on the road, Irvin didn't give up a run in a dominant outing for the Nationals, who are in last place in the NL East. The 26-year-old right-hander limited the Giants to four hits and walked three.

Luis García singled twice and had a multi-hit performance in his fourth consecutive game and CJ Abrams drove in two runs. Alex Call, the Nationals' new everyday center fielder after Victor Robles was placed on the injured list earlier Monday, had an RBI double.

Joc Pederson homered for San Francisco, which lost its second straight after a four-game winning streak. Anthony DeSclafani (3-2), who has been one of San Francisco's best pitchers so far this season, allowed 10 hits and five runs in seven innings.

ANGELS 6, ASTROS 4

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—Shohei Ohtani had a pair of RBI doubles, Brandon Drury drove in the go-ahead run with a triple in the eighth inning and Los Angeles rallied past Houston.

Taylor Ward had three hits and Hunter Renfroe homered for the Angels, who are 2-2 on their current homestand.

David Hensley homered for the Astros, who have dropped five of six.

Ohtani tied it at 4-all in the fifth inning with a line-drive double off the wall in right-center and had a run-scoring double in the second.

The Angels' Matt Moore (2-1) pitched 1 2/3 scoreless innings and Carlos Estévez earned his eighth save. Rafael Montero (0-2) took the loss.

Cepeda thrilled with MRA's 'amazing performance'

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR



Marianas Racing Association gave a good account of themselves in the 40th APL Smokin' Wheels held last April 21-23 at the Guam International Raceway.

President Charles Cepeda said on behalf of the MRA board, "I am absolutely thrilled to congratulate MRA on their amazing performance at the Smokin' Wheels Race in Guam!"

He added that the recent off-island achievement speaks volumes about the incredible skill, passion, and dedication of each MRA rider that competed in Guam.

"It takes a lot of hard work and determination to excel in such a high-stakes competition, but MRA truly pulled out all the stops to come out with the best of each ability. I can only imagine the adrenaline rush each of you must have felt as you pushed your limits and pushed bikes and ATVs to their maximum potential at the Guam Raceway Motocross Track. This is an incredible feat for each of you, and it is an inspiration to all those who love racing and motocross alike."

Apart from the actual racing, Cepeda admired MRA riders' unwavering patience throughout the Smokin' Wheels journey, from the loading of containers to practice days and times, to the two days of racing, and finally off-loading of the containers back home on Saipan.

"You have shown an unparalleled level of dedication and understanding and we cannot thank you enough for everyone sticking through the progression. Your cooperation has been absolutely invaluable in making MRA's participation in Smokin' Wheels a reality and success. We are even more grateful for your willingness to work alongside each other every step of the way. Your enthusiasm to accomplish what we did is truly infectious, and it only makes us even more excited to showcase all the talent of MRA in the future."

The MRA president also thanked Guam Motorcycle and ATV Corp. for inviting them to the 40th Smokin' Wheels.

"It is truly a reciprocal of the familia and fellowship as expected from within our Mariana Islands. You have provided an outstanding racing event and added spice for the familia fiesta atmosphere throughout the weekend at the Guam Raceway Park and around Guam. Thank you to Cycle's Plus for the lunch provided on Saturday. Thank you Lil' John and GMAC family for the huge fiesta-style spread on Sunday. Thank you, Jeff Rios, for making sure logistically (and everything else) MRA is set. Thank you, all GMAC and Guam Racing Federation officials. A huge thank you to all GMAC racers for the spirited and competitive racing.

Lastly, Cepeda expressed his support to GMAC in its effort to maintain management of the Guam International Raceway.

"We wish you all the best of luck on keeping the race track in Yigo as we all enjoyed the



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Marianas Racing Association Charles Cepeda, right, celebrates after coming in third in the Legends Class of the 40th APL Smokin' Wheels held last April 21-23 at the Guam International Raceway.

various activities that were going on throughout the weekend. It would be a huge mistake and great loss for Guam should the land eviction be upheld. We pray for a successful conclusion for the Guam Racing Federation."

As far as how they fared, Christian "Hollywood" Camacho had the most impressive performance after teaming up with Guam's James Lujan to top the ATV Enduro.

The 38-year-old and Lujan completed 35 grueling laps in 2:04:17.417 to beat the tandems of George Santos and Pierre Banes (2:05:04.598) and Tatsuhiko Hosoda and Bob Bucek (2:04:28.455).

Charles Cepeda came in third in the Legends Class with 38 points, while Billie Pangelinan had runner-up finishes in the Women's Jr. Class and 150cc Class with 47 points each. Nanako Celis was third in the Women's Jr. Class with 20 points.

In the ATV Mini Intro 50-

70, Nakoa Torres finished third with 30 points, while

Lady Legals, BDE win in BASA

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

The Lady Legals and BDE won their respective games in the 2023 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association League last Sunday at the Dan-Dan Softball Field.

The Lady Legals blew Lady Sufa out of the field, 17-5, in a run-mercy ruled game, while BDE outscored the Hotshots 13-8.

The first inning was a run frenzy for the Lady Legals as they struck first and scored seven. From the top of the lineup to the bottom, they produced results with single after single—with a leadoff base hit by Tiah Camacho.

Lady Sufa, on the other hand, could not make productive contact for two innings as

Melvin Cepeda, Ray Yumul, and Joseph finished second, third, and fourth in the MX Intermediate Class with 44 points for the former and 38 points apiece for the latter two.

The MX Novice Class had Ethan Yumul (26 points), Byron Castro (21 points), and Ponce Rasa (18 points) finish in the Top 13.

The three also came in among the Top 15 in the School Boy/Novice Class with Yumul (24 points), Castro (18 points), and Rasa (15 points).

Shane Alvarez (29 points), Corry Pangelinan (17 points), Patrick Togawa Jr. (15 points), Aric Cruz (9 points), and El-

lery Cruz (4 points) also competed in the Open MX Class.

Etan Yumul finished third in the School Boy/Novice Class with 40 points, while Maribel Igitol and Marissa Rasa finished second and third in the MX Women's Sr. Class with 44 points and 40 points, respectively.

Melvin Cepeda, Ray Yumul, and Charles Cepeda wound up ninth, 11th, and 12th in the MX Vets with 25 points, 20 points, and 18 points, respectively.

Jonoah Santos finished seventh in the 65cc Class with 27 points, while Francesca Yumul and Keenan Togawa wound up fourth and sixth in the Mini ATV Advanced and Senior Class with 36 points and 31 points.

they only had two hits with no runs off Lady Legals pitcher Jovie Omar.

Lady Sufa finally broke through in the third inning when they scored four runs which started from Tenta Borja's single. However, they were shut down again in the fourth inning as the Lady Legals kept up their fiery offense and scored three in the third and seven more in the fourth for a 17-4 game.

Only one more run was made by Lady Sufa as Sheena Maratita rounded the bases and the game ended early, 17-5.

As for the BDE and Hotshots game, BDE managed to win via a rally in the last two innings and as their pitcher, Sonia Isaac held off the Hotshots to just two runs in their last at-bat.



JERRY

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tion rules on winning and the four judges would observe for which participant was most aggressive and consistent during the competition that includes strikes, pushing the pace, moving forward, and enduring the incoming strikes. I followed this approach [and] didn't want to leave it to the four judges to be undecided. I wanted to be the unanimous karate participant on the mat that was most recognized."

Since their invitation to the

tourney last November, under the tutelage of black belt sensei Danny Banez of the Kyokushinkai Karate Watanabe Dojo, Diaz said that they have prepared rigorously the karate techniques of kumite (hand-to-hand combat), counter reaction, refining strikes and kicks, and the Ibuki breathing technique to shield the core from accepting strikes from opponents.

Diaz said overall the tournament was "very organized by sensei Chris Biolchino and his team."

After the tourney, Diaz was invited to the Japan Dream Festival World Karate Com-

petition 2024 and said that he will now be heading back to the dojo to prepare for that.

His sensei, Danny Banez, said that he is so proud of Diaz for winning. "I was so emotional when I heard that he had won gold," he said. "It shows that no matter how new you are, if you're disciplined and committed, you can do anything."

Banez said that Diaz's win puts Saipan on the map for karate and is also very thankful for the invitation to the Japan Karate Competition, which he said is a huge event that will host a number of people from

different countries.

Diaz thanked his family—wife Rose and daughters Hana and Maja—for "supporting me throughout my karate journey, preparation, and competition. They were by my side every step of the way and my true inspiration that if you set your mind [on] anything, you can be successful" and Banez for his tutelage from last September to the

present. "Bringing home the gold for sensei validates his approach that a beginner like me can learn and compete at a high-level competition."

He also thanked coach Eric Atalig for his coaching and guidance during the tournament; Guam family Lucy Baba and Ricky Baba for their hospitality and accommodations; Dennis Guo, the CNMI youth karate champion in his

age division; sensei Taishi Watanabe; and sensei Chris Biolchino for the Guam Karate Tournament invitation.

He then thanked his sponsors May Cabrera and 670 Rocksteady Shop, Li Li and Saipan Fresh Market, Amy and family, Arlene Palpallatoc-Domingo family and JC World Fit, Michelle Igisomar and family, Island Apparel, and Guam Plaza.

TEAM

From Page 20

ond game, Martech-Ol'Aces demolished Bridge Capital LLC, 99-48, to improve to 5-0, while keeping their foes winless in five games.

Roil Soil OG then beat Unity Trade, 96-67, for its first win of the season against four losses last Friday. In the second game, Ali'i Blue Haus (4-1) shot down Save More (3-2), 74-64.

On Thursday, Ali'i won its third game after turning back CK Saints, 81-69. In the first game, New Chang Ming Market posted win No. 5 following a 97-68 victory over La Mesa Kusina.

First Game

Team Marianas 88 — C. Santos 18, G. Sablan 14, Richardson 13, Aranda 11, Garcia 8, Raqueto 7, Villarin 5, Hocog 5.

Unity Trade 67 — Ferrer 17, Javier 9, A. Camacho 8, Tarava 7, Esmores 7, Piritcino

6, G. Camacho 3.

Scoring by quarters: 19-16, 45-28, 69-49, 88-57.

Second Game

CK Saints 91 — Galarze 27, Aughenbaugh 19, Tudela 11, Bahillo 9, Deleon Guerrero 7, L. Reyes 6, Lizama 4, R. Reyes 3, Yacummang 2, Mendiola 2.

OG Rollers 82 — Satur 22, Palmes 18, Vania 11, Mariano 10, Cruz 6, Coldeen 3, Eugenio 2.

Scoring by quarters: 16-26, 45-49, 69-67, 91-82.

BRAVES

From Page 20

rez started the offense when he hit a triple in the first and came running home after a sacrifice fly to the outfield by Heath Camacho.

The second inning show-down was brought about by singles up and down the Braves' lineup through the holes of the Survivors' defenses. Alvarez and Camacho were on fire as they hit a triple and double respectively and scored a total of three RBIs for the team.

The Braves took a breather in the third and fourth as their hitting simmered down and they didn't score any runs. But by the last inning, the Survivors still

had not rounded the bases as only one more hit was made by Mendiola in the fourth but nothing came of it.

The Braves added three more runs in the last inning for good measure and the game ended with the Survivors perishing in a 10-0 game.

In a battle of the first two women in SBL history, Kiana "Kianu" Aldan and the Brewers took down Kiana "Baby K" Camacho and the Blue Jays, 15-5.

Aldan got on base three times via being walked by the Blue Jays pitcher and an error by their defense. The Brewers were silent in the first couple of innings then found traction in the third as they scored three from free passes by the Blue Jays' shoddy

defense.

Three batters in a row were walked by the Blue Jays pitcher as he failed to locate the strike zone which allowed the Brewers to capitalize and score five runs as Verlance Secharmidal hit a single and followed up by a double by Jerome Delos Santos.

Five runs also scored in the next inning with two more batters put into scoring position based off walks. At this time, the Blue Jays have only scored three more runs in the third inning for a 13-5 game with the Brewers in a wide lead.

The Blue Jays failed to score in the last three innings, while the Brewers added two more runs in the last and the game ended as the final out was made.



Lakers rally past
Warriors 104-101,
take 3-1 series lead.

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Cepeda thrilled
with MRA's 'amazing
performance'.

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Jerry Diaz karate chops way to gold

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Jerry Diaz won gold in the recently concluded World Karate Organization Shinkyokushinkai Full Contact Karate Championship 2023 at the Ilearn Academy Gymnasium in Guam last April 29.

The blue belt defeated black belt Bernard Sacayan of WKO Guam in the championship round and prior to that, beat orange belt Jonathan Basto also of WKO Guam in the first round of the senior men open weight division for ages 40 and older.

Diaz said of his approach in the tourney as a first-time karate competitor, "it was important to be patient dur-

ing the first-round... and not overreact during their striking approach. When an opportunity present[ed] itself, I react appropriately to my natural reaction."

"During the finals, I didn't want to be overconfident and approached my black belt competition with the same balance of aggression and patience," he said.

"Most importantly, during both rounds, I was intentional with asserting my will. I studied World Karate Organiza-

See JERRY on Page 19

Braves, Brewers snatch first win in SBL

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER



The Braves and Brewers finally snatched

their first win in the Tan Holdings-Saipan Baseball League 2023 season last Thursday and Friday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.

The Braves overpowered the Survivors, 10-0, while the Brewers bested the Blue Jays, 15-5.

Braves' Aaron Camacho pitched a near perfect game as he held off the Survivors to

just three hits. He first struck out the side in the first for a quick 1-2-3 inning. In the second, the Survivors got their first hit off the bat of J-Boy Mendiola who managed to reach second base off an error by the first baseman.

But after walking Luis Diaz, Camacho managed to get his three outs without giving up a run via a pop up then a double play. The second hit was made by Greg Tebit but they were quickly silenced and failed to score again.

By this time, the Braves have already scored seven runs—one in the first and six in the second. Josenio Alva-

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LEIGH GASES

In this file photo, Brewers' Franko Nakamura hits a foul ball during their game against the Cardinals in the 2023 Tan Holdings-Saipan Baseball League season at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.



SATURDAY | APRIL 29, 2023
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Blue belt Jerry Diaz, right, poses with his first place trophy and sensei Taishi Watanabe, a renowned karate sensei. Diaz is from Saipan's Kyokushinkai Karate Watanabe Dojo and won gold after he defeated a black belt competitor during the World Karate Organization Shinkyokushinkai Full Contact Karate Championship 2023 at the Ilearn Academy Gymnasium in Guam last April 29.

Team Marianas drubs Unity Trade; Saints march on

By MARK RABAGO
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Team Marianas brought division over at Unity Trade, while CK Saints marched

on against OG Rollers in the 2023 Michelob Ultra Cup Men's Islandwide Basketball League last Sunday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Seeing action in the first

game, the CNMI national basketball pool routed Unity Trade after a shaky early going, 88-67.

Both teams fought tooth and nail in the first quarter that saw Team Marianas take only a 19-16 lead.

They then flexed their muscles at the start of the second to go ahead, 45-28, before playing even better in the third to enter the fourth and final quarter on top, 69-49, then cruised to the 21-point win.

Coby Santos had a team-high 18 points with Greg Sablan and Matthew Richardson chipping in 14 points and 13 points, respectively, for Team Marianas, which upped its standings to 4-1.

Mark Ferrer led all scorers with 22 points for the now 1-4 Unity Trade.

In the second game, CK Saints turned the tables on OG Rollers at the start of the

second half to win running away, 91-82.

OG Rollers dominated the first 10 minutes of action and led, 26-16, before CK Saints exorcized their inner demons and cut their deficit to 4 points, 45-49, at the half.

CK Saints then continued their march the rest of the game to roll up the Rollers by 9 points.

Leo Galarse shone all game long for CK Saints with 27 points, while Eli Aughenbaugh contributed 19 as they raised their record to 2-3.

OG Rollers, which dropped to 1-4, were led by the 22 points of Frankie Satur and the 18 points of Jay Palmes.

Last Saturday, Socho won its second game of the season after edging La Mesa Kusina, 102-98, in the opener to catch its victims in the standings at 2-3. In the sec-

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MARK RABAGO

CK Saints' Jason Bahillo challenges OG Rollers' Nyrel Eugenio in the 2023 Michelob Ultra Cup Men's Islandwide Basketball League last Sunday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.